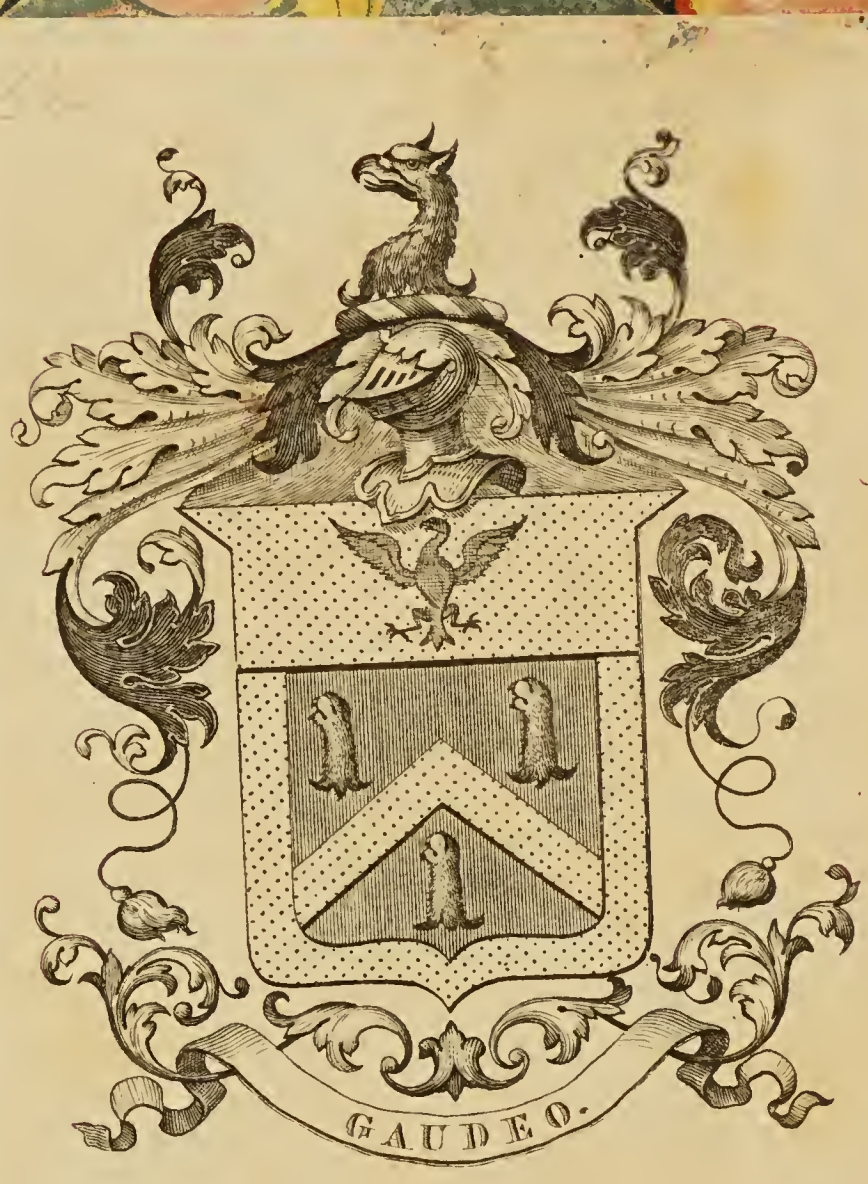

John Carter Brown.

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The Narrative of Admiral Byron, of his Shipwreck on the Coast of Patagonia, and Sufferings from 1740 to 1746, and Relation of the Loss of the Wager, Man-of-War, one of Lord Anson's Squadron, 8vo, calf. Lond. 1768

The great-uncle of the poet, who has made use of some of the most striking circumstances of the present narrative in the shipwreck in "Don Juan."

—— "his sufferings were comparative,
To those related in my Grand-dad's narrative."—*Lord Byron.*

JOHN CARTER BROWN

THE NARRATIVE

OF THE HONOURABLE

JOHN BYRON

(Commodore in a Late EXPEDITION round the WORLD)

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

GREAT DISTRESSES

Suffered by Himself and His Companions on the

COAST OF PATAGONIA,

From the Year 1740, till their Arrival in ENGLAND, 1746.

WITH A

DESCRIPTION of St. JAGO DE CHILI,

and the MANNERS and CUSTOMS of the INHABITANTS.

ALSO A

Relation of the Loss of the WAGER Man of War,

One of ADMIRAL ANSON'S Squadron.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF,

And now First Published.

LONDON:

Printed for S. BAKER and G. LEIGH, in York-street; and
T. DAVIES, in Russel-street, Covent-garden.

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PREFACE.

AS the greateſt pain I feel in committing the following ſheets to the preſs, ariſes from an apprehenſion that many of my readers will accuſe me of egotiſm; I will not incur that charge in my preface, by detaining them with the reaſons which have induced me, at this time, to yield to the deſire of my friends. It is equally indifferent to the public to be told how it happened, that nothing ſhould have got the better of my indolence and reluctance to comply with the ſame requeſts, for the ſpace of twenty years.

I will employ theſe few introductory pages merely to ſhew what pretenſions

this work may have to the notice of the world, after thoſe publications which have preceded it.

It is well known that the Wager, one of lord Anſon's ſquadron, was caſt away upon a deſolate iſland in the South-ſeas. The ſubject of this book is a relation of the extraordinary difficulties and hardſhips through which, by the aſſiſtance of Divine Providence, a ſmall part of her crew eſcaped to their native land; and a very ſmall proportion of thoſe made their way in a new and unheard-of manner, over a large and deſert tract of land between the weſtern mouth of the Magellanic ſtreight and the capital of Chili; a country ſcarce to be paralleled in any part of the globe, in that it affords neither fruits, grain, nor even roots proper for the ſuſtenance of man; and what is ſtill more rare, the very ſea, which yields a plentiful ſupport to many

a barren coaſt, on this tempeſtuous and inhoſpitable ſhore is found to be almoſt as barren as the land; and it muſt be confeſſed, that to thoſe who cannot intereſt themſelves with ſeeing human nature labouring, from day to day, to preſerve its exiſtence under the continual want of ſuch real neceſſaries as food and ſhelter from the moſt rigorous climate, the following ſheets will afford but little entertainment.

Yet, after all, it muſt be allowed there can be no other way of aſcertaining the geography and natural hiſtory of a country which is altogether moraſs and rock, incapable of products or culture, than by ſetting down every minute circumſtance which was obſerved in traverſing it. The ſame may be ſaid of the inhabitants, their manners, religion, and language. What fruits could an European reap from a more intimate acquaintance

with

with them, than what he will find in the following accidental obſervations? We ſaw the moſt unprofitable ſpot on the globe of the earth, and ſuch it is deſcribed and aſcertained to be.

It is to be hoped ſome little amends may be made by ſuch an inſight as is given into the interior part of the country; and I find what I have put down has had the good fortune to be pleaſing to ſome of my friends; inſomuch that the only fault I have yet had laid to my papers is, that of being too ſhort in the article of the Spaniſh ſettlements. But here I muſt ſay, I have been dubious of the partiality of my friends; and, as I think, juſtly fearful leſt the world in general, who may perhaps find compaſſion and indulgence for a protracted tale of diſtreſs, may not give the ſame allowance to a luxurious imagination triumphing in a change of fortune, and

ſudden

ſudden tranſition from the moſt diſmal to the gayeſt ſcenes in the univerſe, and thereby indulging an egotiſm equally offenſive to the envious and cenſorious.

I ſpeak as briefly as poſſible of matters previous to our final ſeparation from the reſt of lord Anſon's ſquadron; for it is from this epocha that the train of our misfortunes properly commences: and though Mr. Bulkeley, one of the warrant officers of the Wager, has long ſince publiſhed a Journal and Account of the return of that part of the ſhip's company, which, diſſenting from captain Cheap's propoſal of endeavouring to regain their native country by way of the great continent of South America, took their paſſage home in the long-boat, through the Streights of Magellan; our tranſactions during our abode on the iſland have been related by him in ſo conciſe a manner as to leave many par-

ticulars unnoticed, and others touched ſo ſlightly, that they appear evidently to have been put together with the purpoſe of juſtifying thoſe proceedings which could not be conſidered in any other light than that of direct mutiny. Accordingly, we find that the main ſubſtance of his Journal is employed in ſcrutinizing the conduct of captain Cheap, and ſetting forth the conferences which paſſed between him and the ſeceders, relative to the way and meaſures they were to take for their return home. I have, therefore, taken ſome pains to review thoſe early paſſages of the unfortunate ſcene I am to repreſent, and to enter into a detail, without which no ſound judgment can be formed of any diſputed point, eſpecially when it has been carried ſo far as to end in perſonal reſentment. When conteſts and diſſenſions ſhall be found to have gone that length, it will be obvious to every reader, why a

licentious

licentious crew ſhould hearken to any factious leader rather than to the ſolidity of their captain's advice, who made it evident to every unprejudiced underſtanding, that their faireſt chance for ſafety and a better fortune, was to proceed with the long-boat till they ſhould make prize of ſome veſſel of the enemy, and thereby be enabled to bring to the commodore a ſupply of ſtout fellows to aſſiſt in his conqueſts, and ſhare in the honour and rewards.

And yet it is but juſtice even to this ungovernable herd to explain, that though I have ſaid above they appeared in the light of mutineers, they were not actually ſuch in the eye of the law; for till a ſubſequent act, made, indeed, on this occaſion, the pay of a ſhip's crew ceaſed immediately upon her wreck, and conſequently the officers authority and command.

Having

Having explained the foregoing particulars, I hope I may flatter myſelf there are few things in the following ſheets, which will not be readily underſtood by the greateſt part of my readers; therefore I will not detain them any longer.

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THE

NARRATIVE

OF THE HONOURABLE

JOHN BYRON.

THE equipment and deſtination of the ſquadron fitted out in the year 1740, of which commodore Anſon had the command, being ſufficiently known from the ample and well-penned relation of it under his direction, I ſhall recite no particulars that are to be found in that work. But it may be neceſſary, for the better underſtanding the diſaſtrous fate of the Wager, the ſubject of the following ſheets, to repeat the remark, that a

ſtrange infatuation ſeemed to prevail in the whole conduct of this embarkation. For though it was unaccountably detained till the ſeaſon for its ſailing was paſt, no proper uſe was made of that time, which ſhould have been employed in providing a ſuitable force of ſailors and ſoldiery; nor was there a due attention given to other requiſites for ſo peculiar and extenſive a deſtination.

This neglect not only rendered the expedition abortive in its principal object, but moſt materially affected the condition of each particular ſhip; and none ſo fatally as the Wager, who being an old Indiaman bought into the ſervice upon this occaſion, was now fitted out as a man of war, but being made to ſerve as a ſtore-ſhip, was deeply laden with all kinds of careening geer, military and other ſtores, for the uſe of the other ſhips; and, what is more, crowded with bale goods, and encumber-

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ed with merchandize. A ſhip of this quality and condition could not be expected to work with that readineſs and eaſe which was neceſſary for her ſecurity and preſervation in thoſe heavy ſeas with which ſhe was to encounter. Her crew conſiſted of men preſſed from long voyages to be ſent upon a diſtant and hazardous ſervice: on the other hand, all her land-forces were no more than a poor detachment of infirm and decrepid invalids from Chelſea hoſpital, deſponding under the apprehenſions of a long voyage. It is not then to be wondered that captain Kid, under whoſe command this ſhip ſailed out of the port, ſhould in his laſt moments preſage her ill ſucceſs, though nothing very material happened during his command.

At his death he was ſucceeded by captain Cheap, who ſtill, without any accident, kept company with the ſquadron till we had almoſt gained the

ſouthernmoſt mouth of Straits Le Maire; when, being the ſternmoſt ſhip, we were, by the ſudden ſhifting of the wind to the ſouthward and the turn of the tide, very near being wrecked upon the rocks of Staten Land; which, notwithſtanding, having weathered, contrary to the expectation of the reſt of the ſquadron, we endeavoured all in our power to make up our loſt way and regain our ſtation. This we effected, and proceeded in our voyage, keeping company with the reſt of the ſhips for ſome time; when, by a great roll of a hollow ſea, we carried away our mizen-maſt, all the chain-plates to windward being broken. Soon after, hard gales at weſt coming on with a prodigious ſwell, there broke a heavy ſea in upon the ſhip, which ſtove our boats, and filled us for ſome time.

Theſe accidents were the more diſheartening, as our carpenter was on board the Glouceſter, and detained there

by

by the inceſſant tempeſtuous weather, and ſea impracticable for boats. In a few days he returned, and ſupplied the loſs of the mizen-maſt by a lower ſtudding-ſail boom; but this expedient, together with the patching up of our rigging, was a poor temporary relief to us. We were ſoon obliged to cut away our beſt bower anchor to eaſe the fore-maſt, the ſhrouds and chain-plates of which were all broken, and the ſhip in all parts in a moſt crazy condition.

Thus ſhattered and diſabled, a ſingle ſhip (for we had now loſt ſight of our ſquadron) we had the additional mortification to find ourſelves bearing for the land on a lee-ſhore; having thus far perſevered in the courſe we held, from an error in conjecture: for the weather was unfavourable for obſervation, and there are no charts of that part of the coaſt. When thoſe officers who firſt perceived their miſtake, endeavoured to perſuade the

captain to alter his courſe, and bear away, for the greater ſurety, to the weſtward, he perſiſted in making directly, as he thought, for the iſland of Socoro; and to ſuch as dared from time to time to deliver their doubts of being entangled with the land ſtretching to the weſtward, he replied, that he thought himſelf in no caſe at liberty to deviate from his orders; and that the abſence of his ſhip from the firſt place of rendezvous, would entirely fruſtrate the whole ſquadron in the firſt object of their attack, and poſſibly decide upon the fortune of the whole expedition. For the better underſtanding the force of his reaſoning, it is neceſſary to explain, that the iſland of Socoro is in the neighbourhood of Baldivia; the capture of which place could not be effected without the junction of that ſhip which carried the ordnance and military ſtores.

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The knowledge of the great importance of giving ſo early and unexpected a blow to the Spaniards, determined the captain to make the ſhorteſt way to the point in view; and that rigid adherence to orders from which he thought himſelf in no caſe at liberty to depart, begot in him a ſtubborn defiance of all difficulties, and took away from him thoſe apprehenſions, which ſo juſtly alarmed all ſuch as, from an ignorance of the orders, had nothing preſent to their minds but the dangers of a lee-ſhore *.

* Captain Cheap has been ſuſpected of a deſign of going on the Spaniſh coaſt without the commodore; but no part of his conduct ſeems to authoriſe, in the leaſt, ſuch a ſuſpicion. The author who brings this heavy charge againſt him, is equally miſtaken in imagining that captain Cheap had not inſtructions to ſail to this iſland, and that the commodore did neither go nor ſend thither, to inform himſelf if any of the ſquadron were there. This appears from the orders delivered to the captains of the ſquadron, the day before they ſailed from St. Catherine's (L. Anſon's Voyage, B. I. C. 6.); from the orders of the council of war held on board the Centurion, in the bay of St. Julian

We had for ſome time been ſenſible of our approach to the land, from no other tokens than thoſe of weeds and birds, which are the uſual indications of nearing the coaſt; but at length we had an imperfect view of an eminence, which we conjectured to be one of the mountains of the Cordilleras. This, however, was not ſo diſtinctly ſeen but that many conceived it to be the effect of imagination: but if the captain was perſuaded of the nearneſs of our danger, it was now too late to remedy it; for at this time the ſtraps of the fore jeer blocks breaking, the fore-yard came down; and the greateſt part of the men being diſabled through fatigue and ſickneſs, it was ſome time before it could

(C. 7.); and from the conduct of the commodore (C. 10.) who cruized (with the utmoſt hazard) more than a fortnight off the iſle of Socoro, and along the coaſt in its neighbourhood. It was the ſecond rendezvous at Baldivia, and not that at Socoro, that the commodore was forced by neceſſity to neglect.

be

be got up again. The few hands who were employed in this buſineſs now plainly ſaw the land on the larboard beam, bearing N. W. upon which the ſhip was driving bodily. Orders were then given immediately by the captain to ſway the fore-yard up, and ſet the fore-ſail; which done, we wore ſhip with her head to the ſouthward, and endeavoured to crowd her off from the land: but the weather, from being exceeding tempeſtuous, blowing now a perfect hurricane, and right in upon the ſhore, rendered our endeavours (for we were now only twelve hands fit for duty) intirely fruitleſs. The night came on, dreadful beyond deſcription, in which, attempting to throw out our topſails to claw off the ſhore, they were immediately blown from the yards.

In the morning, about four o'clock, the ſhip ſtruck. The ſhock we received upon this occaſion, though very great,

being

being not unlike a blow of a heavy ſea, ſuch as in the ſeries of preceding ſtorms we had often experienced, was taken for the ſame; but we were ſoon undeceived by her ſtriking again more violently than before, which laid her upon her beam ends, the ſea making a fair breach over her. Every perſon that now could ſtir was preſently upon the quarter-deck; and many even of thoſe were alert upon this occaſion, that had not ſhewed their faces upon deck for above two months before: ſeveral poor wretches, who were in the laſt ſtage of the ſcurvy, and who could not get out of their hammocks, were immediately drowned.

In this dreadful ſituation ſhe lay for ſome little time, every ſoul on board looking upon the preſent minute as his laſt; for there was nothing to be ſeen but breakers all around us. However, a mountainous ſea hove her off from thence;

thence; but ſhe preſently ſtruck again, and broke her tiller. In this terrifying and critical juncture, to have obſerved all the various modes of horror operating according to the ſeveral characters and complexions amongſt us, it was neceſſary that the obſerver himſelf ſhould have been free from all impreſſions of danger. Inſtances there were, however, of behaviour ſo very remarkable, they could not eſcape the notice of any one who was not intirely bereaved of his ſenſes; for ſome were in this condition to all intents and purpoſes; particularly one, in the ravings deſpair brought upon him, was ſeen ſtalking about the deck, flouriſhing a cutlaſs over his head, and calling himſelf king of the country, and ſtriking every body he came near, till his companions, ſeeing no other ſecurity againſt his tyranny, knocked him down. Some, reduced before by long ſickneſs and the ſcurvy,

became

became on this occaſion as it were petrified and bereaved of all ſenſe, like inanimate logs, and were bandied to and fro by the jerks and rolls of the ſhip, without exerting any efforts to help themſelves. So terrible was the ſcene of foaming breakers around us, that one of the braveſt men we had could not help expreſſing his diſmay at it, ſaying it was too ſhocking a ſight to bear; and would have thrown himſelf over the rails of the quarter-deck into the ſea, had he not been prevented: but at the ſame time there were not wanting thoſe who preſerved a preſence of mind truly heroic. The man at the helm, though both rudder and tiller were gone, kept his ſtation; and being aſked by one of the officers, if the ſhip would ſteer or not, firſt took his time to make trial by the wheel, and then anſwered with as much reſpect and coolneſs as if the ſhip had been in the greateſt ſafety; and immedi-

ately

ately after applied himſelf with his uſual ſerenity, to his duty, perſuaded it did not become him to deſert it as long as the ſhip kept together. Mr. Jones, mate, who now ſurvives not only this wreck, but that of the Litchfield man of war upon the coaſt of Barbary, at the time when the ſhip was in the moſt imminent danger, not only ſhewed himſelf undaunted, but endeavoured to inſpire the ſame reſolution in the men; ſaying, "My friends, let us not be diſcouraged: did you never ſee a ſhip amongſt breakers before? Let us try to puſh her through them. Come, lend a hand; here is a ſheet, and here is a brace; lay hold; I don't doubt but we may ſtick her yet near enough to the land to ſave our lives." This had ſo good an effect, that many who before were half dead, ſeemed active again, and now went to work in earneſt. This Mr. Jones did purely to keep up the ſpirits of

the

the people as long as poſſible; for he often ſaid afterwards, he thought there was not the leaſt chance of a ſingle man's being ſaved. We now run in between an opening of the breakers, ſteering by the ſheets and braces, when providentially we ſtuck faſt between two great rocks; that to windward ſheltering us in ſome meaſure from the violence of the ſea. We immediately cut away the main and foremaſt; but the ſhip kept beating in ſuch a manner, that we imagined ſhe could hold together but a very little while. The day now broke, and the weather, that had been extremely thick, cleared away for a few moments, and gave us a glimpſe of the land not far from us. We now thought of nothing but ſaving our lives. To get the boats out, as our maſts were gone, was a work of ſome time; which when accompliſhed, many were ready to jump into the firſt, by which means they narrowly

rowly eſcaped periſhing before they reached the ſhore. I now went to captain Cheap (who had the misfortune to diſlocate his ſhoulder by a fall the day before, as he was going forward to get the fore-yard ſwayed up), and aſked him if he would not go on ſhore; but he told me, as he had done before, that he would be the laſt to leave the ſhip; and he ordered me to aſſiſt in getting the men out as ſoon as poſſible. I had been with him very often from the time the ſhip firſt ſtruck, as he deſired I would, to acquaint him with every thing that paſſed; and I particularly remarked, that he gave his orders at that time with as much coolneſs as ever he had done during the former part of the voyage.

The ſcene was now greatly changed; for many who but a few minutes before had ſhewn the ſtrongeſt ſigns of deſpair, and were on their knees praying for mercy, imagining they

were

were now not in that immediate danger, grew very riotous, broke open every cheſt and box that was at hand, ſtove in the heads of caſks of brandy and wine as they were born up to the hatch-ways, and got ſo drunk, that ſeveral of them were drowned on board, and lay floating about the decks for ſome days after. Before I left the ſhip, I went down to my cheſt, which was at the bulk-head of the wardroom, in order to ſave ſome little matters, if poſſible; but whilſt I was there the ſhip thumped with ſuch violence, and the water came in ſo faſt, that I was forced to get upon the quarter-deck again, without ſaving a ſingle rag but what was upon my back. The boatſwain and ſome of the people would not leave the ſhip ſo long as there was any liquor to be got at; upon which captain Cheap ſuffered himſelf to be helped out of his bed, put into the boat, and carried on ſhore.

It is natural to think, that to men thus upon the point of periſhing by ſhipwreck, the getting to land was the higheſt attainment of their wiſhes; undoubtedly it was a deſirable event; yet, all things conſidered, our condition was but little mended by the change. Which ever way we looked, a ſcene of horror preſented itſelf: on one ſide, the wreck (in which was all that we had in the world to ſupport and ſubſiſt us), together with a boiſterous ſea, preſented us with the moſt dreary proſpect; on the other, the land did not wear a much more favourable appearance: deſolate and barren, without ſign of culture, we could hope to receive little other benefit from it than the preſervation it afforded us from the ſea. It muſt be confeſſed this was a great and merciful deliverance from immediate deſtruction; but then we had wet, cold, and hunger, to ſtruggle with, and no viſible remedy

againſt any of theſe evils. Exerting ourſelves, however, though faint, benumbed, and almoſt helpleſs, to find ſome wretched covert againſt the extreme inclemency of the weather, we diſcovered an Indian hut, at a ſmall diſtance from the beach, within a wood, in which as many as poſſible, without diſtinction, crouded themſelves, the night coming on exceedingly tempeſtuous and rainy. But here our ſituation was ſuch as to exclude all reſt and refreſhment by ſleep from moſt of us; for beſides that we preſſed upon one another extremely, we were not without our alarms and apprehenſions of being attacked by the Indians, from a diſcovery we made of ſome of their lances and other arms in our hut; and our uncertainty of their ſtrength and diſpoſition gave alarm to our imagination, and kept us in continual anxiety.

In this miſerable hovel, one of our company, a lieutenant of invalids, died

this

this night; and of thoſe who for want of room took ſhelter under a great tree, which ſtood them in very little ſtead, two more periſhed by the ſeverity of that cold and rainy night. In the morning, the calls of hunger, which had been hitherto ſuppreſſed by our attention to more immediate dangers and difficulties, were now become too importunate to be reſiſted. We had moſt of us faſted eight and forty hours, ſome more; it was time, therefore, to make enquiry among ourſelves what ſtore of ſuſtenance had been brought from the wreck by the providence of ſome, and what could be procured on the iſland by the induſtry of others: but the produce of the one amounted to no more than two or three pounds of biſcuit duſt reſerved in a bag; and all the ſucceſs of thoſe who ventured abroad, the weather being ſtill exceedingly bad, was to kill one ſea-gull and pick ſome wild ſellery. Theſe,

therefore, were immediately put into a pot, with the addition of a large quantity of water, and made into a kind of ſoup, of which each partook as far as it would go; but we had no ſooner thrown this down than we were ſeized with the moſt painful ſickneſs at our ſtomachs, violent reachings, ſwoonings, and other ſymptoms of being poiſoned. This was imputed to various cauſes, but in general to the herbs we made uſe of, in the nature and quality of which we fancied ourſelves miſtaken; but a little further enquiry let us into the real occaſion of it, which was no other than this: the biſcuit duſt was the ſweepings of the bread-room, but the bag in which they were put had been a tobacco bag; the contents of which not being intirely taken out, what remained mixed with the biſcuit-duſt, and proved a ſtrong emetic.

We

We were in all about a hundred and forty who had got to ſhore; but ſome few remained ſtill on board, detained either by drunkenneſs, or a view of pillaging the wreck, among which was the boatſwain. Theſe were viſited by an officer in the yawl, who was to endeavour to prevail upon them to join the reſt; but finding them in the greateſt diſorder, and diſpoſed to mutiny, he was obliged to deſiſt from his purpoſe and return without them. Though we were very deſirous, and our neceſſities required that we ſhould take ſome ſurvey of the land we were upon; yet being ſtrongly prepoſſeſſed that the ſavages were retired but ſome little diſtance from us, and waited to ſee us divided, our parties did not make this day, any great excurſions from the hut; but as far as we went, we found it very moraſſy and unpromiſing. The ſpot which we occupied was a bay formed by hilly promontories; that to

the north ſo exceeding ſteep, that in order to aſcend it (for there was no going round, the bottom being waſhed by the ſea) we were at the labour of cutting ſteps. This, which we called Mount Miſery, was of uſe to us in taking ſome obſervations afterwards, when the weather would permit: the ſouthern promontory was not ſo inacceſſible. Beyond this I, with ſome others, having reached another bay, found driven aſhore ſome parts of the wreck, but no kind of proviſion: nor did we meet with any ſhell-fiſh, which we were chiefly in ſearch of. We therefore returned to the reſt, and for that day made no other repaſt than what the wild ſellery afforded us. The enſuing night proved exceedingly tempeſtuous; and, the ſea running very high, threatened thoſe on board with immediate deſtruction by the parting of the wreck. They then were as ſollicitous to get aſhore, as they were

were before obſtinate in refuſing the aſ-ſiſtance we ſent them; and when they found the boat did not come to their re-lief at the inſtant they expected it, without conſidering how impracticable a thing it was to ſend it them in ſuch a ſea, they fired one of the quarter-deck guns at the hut; the ball of which did but juſt paſs over the covering of it, and was plainly heard by the captain and us who were within. Another attempt, therefore, was made to bring theſe mad-men to land; which, however, by the violence of the ſea, and other impediments, occaſioned by the maſt that lay along-ſide, proved ineffectual. This unavoid-able delay made the people on board outrageous: they fell to beating every thing to pieces that fell in the way; and, carrying their intemperance to the greateſt exceſs, broke open cheſts and cabbins for plunder that could be of no uſe to them: and ſo earneſt were they

in this wantonneſs of theft, that one man had evidently been murdered on account of ſome diviſion of the ſpoil, or for the ſake of the ſhare that fell to him, having all the marks of a ſtrangled corpſe. One thing in this outrage they ſeemed particularly attentive to, which was, to provide themſelves with arms and ammunition, in order to ſupport them in putting their mutinous deſigns in execution, and aſſerting their claim to a lawleſs exemption from the authority of their officers, which they pretended muſt ceaſe with the loſs of the ſhip. But of theſe arms, which we ſtood in great need of, they were ſoon bereaved, upon coming aſhore, by the reſolution of captain Cheap and lieutenant Hamilton of the marines. Among theſe mutineers which had been left on board, as I obſerved before, was the boatſwain; who, inſtead of exerting the authority he had over the reſt, to keep them within

bounds

bounds as much as poſſible, was himſelf a ringleader in their riot: him, without reſpect to the figure he then made, for he was in laced cloaths, captain Cheap, by a blow well laid on with his cane, felled to the ground. It was ſcarce poſſible to refrain from laughter at the whimſical appearance theſe fellows made, who, having rifled the cheſts of the officers beſt ſuits, had put them on over their greaſy trowſers and dirty checked ſhirts. They were ſoon ſtripped of their finery, as they had before been obliged to reſign their arms.

The inceſſant rains, and exceeding cold weather in this climate, rendered it impoſſible for us to ſubſiſt long without ſhelter; and the hut being much too little to receive us all, it was neceſſary to fall upon ſome expedient, without delay, which might ſerve our purpoſe: accordingly the gunner, carpenter, and ſome more, turning the cutter keel upwards,

wards, and fixing it upon props, made no deſpicable habitation. Having thus eſtabliſhed ſome ſort of ſettlement, we had the more leiſure to look about us, and to make our reſearches with greater accuracy than we had before, after ſuch ſupplies as the moſt deſolate coaſts are ſeldom unfurniſhed with. Accordingly we ſoon provided ourſelves with ſome ſea-fowl, and found limpets, muſcles, and other ſhell-fiſh in tolerable abundance; but this rummaging of the ſhore was now becoming extremely irkſome to thoſe who had any feeling, by the bodies of our drowned people thrown among the rocks, ſome of which were hideous ſpectacles, from the mangled condition they were in by the violent ſurf that drove in upon the coaſt. Theſe horrors were overcome by the diſtreſſes of our people, who were even glad of the occaſion of killing the gallinazo (the carrion crow of that country)

while

while preying on theſe carcaſſes, in order to make a meal of them. But a proviſion by no means proportionable to the number of mouths to be fed could, by our utmoſt induſtry, be acquired from that part of the iſland we had hitherto traverſed: therefore, till we were in a capacity of making more diſtant excurſions, the wreck was to be applied to, as often as poſſible, for ſuch ſupplies as could be got out of her. But as this was a very precarious fund in its preſent ſituation, and at beſt could not laſt us long; conſidering too that it was very uncertain how long we might be detained upon this iſland; the ſtores and proviſion we were ſo fortunate as to retrieve, were not only to be dealt out with the moſt frugal œconomy, but a ſufficient quantity, if poſſible, laid by, to fit us out, whenever we could agree upon any method of tranſporting ourſelves from this dreary ſpot. The difficulties we had to

encounter

encounter in theſe viſits to the wreck, cannot be eaſily deſcribed; for no part of it being above water except the quarter-deck and part of the fore-caſtle, we were uſually obliged to purchaſe ſuch things as were within reach, by means of large hooks faſtened to poles, in which buſineſs we were much incommoded by the dead bodies floating between decks.

In order to ſecure what we thus got in a manner to anſwer the ends and purpoſes above-mentioned, captain Cheap ordered a ſtore-tent to be erected near his hut, as a repoſitory, from which nothing was to be dealt out, but in the meaſure and proportion agreed upon by the officers; and though it was very hard upon us petty officers, who were fatigued with hunting all day in queſt of food, to defend this tent from invaſion by night, no other means could be deviſed for this purpoſe ſo effectual as the committing this charge to our care; and we were accordingly

cordingly ordered to divide the taſk equally between us. Yet, notwithſtanding our utmoſt vigilance and care, frequent robberies were committed upon our truſt, the tent being acceſſible in more than one place. And one night, when I had the watch, hearing a ſtir within, I came unawares upon the thief, and preſenting a piſtol to his breaſt, obliged him to ſubmit to be tied up to a poſt, till I had an opportunity of ſecuring him more effectually. Depredations continued to be made on our reſerved ſtock, notwithſtanding the great hazard attending ſuch attempts; for our common ſafety made it neceſſary to puniſh them with the utmoſt rigour. This will not be wondered at, when it is known how little the allowance which might conſiſtently be diſpenſed from thence, was proportionable to our common exigencies; ſo that our daily and nightly taſk of roving after food, was not in the leaſt

relaxed

relaxed thereby; and all put together was ſo far from anſwering our neceſſities, that many at this time periſhed with hunger. A boy, when no other eatables could be found, having picked up the liver of one of the drowned men (whoſe carcaſe had been torn to pieces by the force with which the ſea drove it among the rocks) was with difficulty withheld from making a meal of it. The men were ſo aſſiduous in their reſearch after the few things which drove from the wreck, that in order to have no ſharers of their good fortune, they examined the ſhore no leſs by night than by day; ſo that many of thoſe who were leſs alert, or not ſo fortunate as their neighbours, periſhed with hunger, or were driven to the laſt extremity. It muſt be obſerved that on the 14th of May we were caſt away, and it was not till the twenty-fifth of this month, that proviſion was ſerved regularly from the ſtore-tent.

The

The land we were now ſettled upon was about 90 leagues to the northward of the weſtern mouth of the ſtreights of Magellan, in the latitude of between 47 and 48° ſouth, from whence we could plainly ſee the Cordilleras; and by two Lagoons on the north and ſouth of us, ſtretching towards thoſe mountains, we conjectured it was an iſland. But as yet we had no means of informing ourſelves perfectly, whether it was an iſland or the main; for beſides that the inland parts at little diſtance from us ſeemed impracticable, from the exceeding great thickneſs of the wood, we had hitherto been in ſuch confuſion and want (each finding full employment for his time, in ſcraping together a wretched ſubſiſtence, and providing ſhelter againſt the cold and rain) that no party could be formed to go upon diſcoveries. The climate and ſeaſon too were utterly unfavourable to adventurers, and the coaſt, as far as our

eye

eye could ſtretch ſeaward, a ſcene of ſuch diſmal breakers as would diſcourage the moſt daring from making attempts in ſmall boats. Nor were we aſſiſted in our enquiries by any obſervation that could be made from that eminence we called Mount Miſery, toward land, our proſpect that way being intercepted by ſtill higher hills and lofty woods: we had therefore no other expedient, by means of which to come at this knowledge, but by fitting out one of our ſhip's boats upon ſome diſcovery, to inform us of our ſituation. Our long-boat was ſtill on board the wreck; therefore a number of hands were now diſpatched to cut the gunwale of the ſhip, in order to get her out. Whilſt we were employed in this buſineſs, there appeared three canoes of Indians paddling towards us: they had come round the point from the ſouthern Lagoons. It was ſome time before we could prevail upon them

to

to lay aſide their fears and approach us; which at length they were induced to do by the ſigns of friendſhip we made them, and by ſhewing ſome bale-goods, which they accepted, and ſuffered themſelves to be conducted to the captain, who made them, likewiſe, ſome preſents. They were ſtrangely affected with the novelty thereof; but chiefly when ſhewn the looking-glaſs, in which the beholder could not conceive it to be his own face that was repreſented, but that of ſome other behind it, which he therefore went round to the back of the glaſs to find out.

Theſe people were of a ſmall ſtature, very ſwarthy, having long, black, coarſe hair, hanging over their faces. It was evident, from their great ſurpriſe, and every part of their behaviour, as well as their not having one thing in their poſſeſſion which could be derived from white people, that they had never ſeen ſuch. Their cloathing was nothing but a

bit of ſome beaſt's ſkin about their waiſts, and ſomething woven from feathers over the ſhoulders; and as they uttered no word of any language we had ever heard, nor had any method of making themſelves underſtood, we preſumed they could have had no intercourſe with Europeans. Theſe ſavages, who upon their departure left us a few muſcles, returned in two days, and ſurpriſed us by bringing three ſheep. From whence they could procure theſe animals in a part of the world ſo diſtant from any Spaniſh ſettlement, cut off from all communication with the Spaniards by an inacceſſible coaſt and unprofitable country, is difficult to conceive. Certain it is, that we ſaw no ſuch creatures, nor ever heard of any ſuch, from the Streights of Magellan, till we got into the neighbourhood of Chiloe: it muſt be by ſome ſtrange accident that theſe creatures came into their poſſeſſion; but what that was,

we never could learn from them. At this interview we bartered with them for a dog or two, which we roaſted and eat. In a few days after, they made us another viſit, and bringing their wives with them, took up their abode with us for ſome days; then again left us.

Whenever the weather permitted, which was now grown ſomething drier, but exceeding cold, we employed ourſelves about the wreck, from which we had, at ſundry times, recovered ſeveral articles of proviſion and liquor: theſe were depoſited in the ſtore-tent. Ill-humour and diſcontent, from the difficulties we laboured under in procuring ſubſiſtence, and the little proſpect there was of any amendment in our condition, was now breaking out apace. In ſome it ſhewed itſelf by a ſeparation of ſettlement and habitation; in others, by a reſolution of leaving the captain entirely, and making a wild journey by them-

ſelves, without determining upon any plan whatever. For my own part, ſeeing it was the faſhion, and liking none of their parties, I built a little hut juſt big enough for myſelf and a poor Indian dog I found in the woods, who could ſhift for himſelf along ſhore, at low water, by getting limpets. This creature grew ſo fond of me and faithful, that he would ſuffer nobody to come near the hut without biting them. Beſides thoſe ſeceders I mentioned, ſome laid a ſcheme of deſerting us entirely: theſe were in number ten; the greateſt part of them a moſt deſperate and abandoned crew, who, to ſtrike a notable ſtroke before they went off, placed half a barrel of gunpowder cloſe to the captain's hut, laid a train to it, and were juſt preparing to perpetrate their wicked deſign of blowing up their commander, when they were with difficulty diſſuaded from it by one who had ſome bowels and remorſe of conſcience

left in him. Theſe wretches, after rambling ſome time in the woods, and finding it impracticable to get off, for they were then convinced that we were not upon the main, as they had imagined when they firſt left us, but upon an iſland within four or five leagues of it, returned and ſettled about a league from us ; however, they were ſtill determined, as ſoon as they could procure craft fit for their purpoſe, to get to the main. But before they could effect this, we found means to prevail upon the armourer and one of the carpenter's crew, two very uſeful men to us, who had imprudently joined them, to come over again to their duty. The reſt, (one or two excepted) having built a punt, and converted the hull of one of the ſhip's maſts into a canoe, went away up one of the Lagoons, and never were heard of more.

Theſe being a deſperate and factious

ſet, did not diſtreſs us much by their departure, but rather added to our future ſecurity: one in particular, James Mitchell by name, we had all the reaſon in the world to think had committed no leſs than two murders ſince the loſs of our ſhip; one on the perſon found ſtrangled on board, another on the body of a man whom we diſcovered among ſome buſhes upon Mount Miſery, ſtabbed in ſeveral places, and ſhockingly mangled. This diminution of our numbers was ſucceeded by an unfortunate accident much more affecting in its conſequences, I mean the death of Mr. Cozens, midſhipman; in relating which with the neceſſary impartiality and exactneſs, I think myſelf obliged to be more than ordinary particular. Having one day, among other things, got a caſk of peaſe out of the wreck, about which I was almoſt conſtantly employed, I brought it to ſhore in the yawl; when having landed

it,

it, the captain came down upon the beach, and bid me to go up to ſome of the tents and order hands to come down and roll it up ; but finding none except Mr. Cozens, I delivered him the orders, who immediately came down to the captain, where I left them when I returned to the wreck. Upon my coming on ſhore again, I found that Mr. Cozens was put under confinement by the captain, for being drunk and giving him abuſive language; however, he was ſoon after releaſed. A day or two after he had ſome diſpute with the ſurgeon, and came to blows: all theſe things incenſed the captain greatly againſt him. I believe this unfortunate man was kept warm with liquor, and ſet on by ſome ill-deſigning perſons ; for, when ſober, I never knew a better natured man, or one more inoffenſive. Some little time after, at the hour of ſerving proviſions, Mr. Cozens was at the ſtore tent ; and having, it ſeems, lately

had a quarrel with the purſer, and now ſome words ariſing between them, the latter told him he was come to mutiny; and without any further ceremony fired a piſtol at his head, which narrowly miſſed him. The captain, hearing the report of the piſtol, and perhaps the purſer's words, that Cozens was come to mutiny, ran out of his hut with a cocked piſtol in his hand, and, without aſking any queſtions, immediately ſhot him through the head. I was at this time in my hut, as the weather was extremely bad; but running out upon the alarm of this firing, the firſt thing I ſaw was Mr. Cozens on the ground, weltering in his blood: he was ſenſible, and took me by the hand, as he did ſeveral others, ſhaking his head, as if he meant to take leave of us. If Mr. Cozens' behaviour to his captain was indecent and provoking, the captain's, on the other hand, was raſh and haſty: if the firſt was wanting in

that

that reſpect and obſervance which is due from a petty officer to his commander, the latter was ſtill more unadviſed in the method he took for the enforcement of his authority; of which, indeed, he was jealous to the laſt degree, and which he ſaw daily declining, and ready to be trampled upon. His miſtaken apprehenſion of a mutinous deſign in Mr. Cozens, the ſole motive of this raſh action, was ſo far from anſwering the end he propoſed by it, that the men, who before were much diſſatisfied and uneaſy, were by this unfortunate ſtep thrown almoſt into open ſedition and revolt. It was evident that the people, who ran out of their tents, alarmed by the report of fire-arms, though they diſguiſed their real ſentiments for the preſent, were extremely affected at this cataſtrophe of Mr. Cozens (for he was greatly beloved by them): their minds were now exaſperated, and it was to be apprehended, that their re-

ſentment,

ſentment, which was ſmothered for the preſent, would ſhortly ſhew itſelf in ſome deſperate enterpriſe. The unhappy victim, who lay weltering in his blood on the ground before them, ſeemed to abſorb their whole attention; the eyes of all were fixed upon him; and viſible marks of the deepeſt concern appeared in the countenances of the ſpectators. The perſuaſion the captain was under, at the time he ſhot Mr. Cozens, that his intentions were mutinous, together with a jealouſy of the diminution of his authority, occaſioned alſo his behaving with leſs compaſſion and tenderneſs towards him afterwards than was conſiſtent with the unhappy condition of the poor ſufferer: for when it was begged as a favour by his meſs-mates, that Mr. Cozens might be removed to their tent, though a neceſſary thing in his dangerous ſituation, yet it was not permitted; but the poor wretch was ſuffered to languiſh on

the ground ſome days, with no other covering than a bit of canvas thrown over ſome buſhes, where he died. But to return to our ſtory: the captain, addreſſing himſelf to the people thus aſſembled, told them, that it was his reſolution to maintain his command over them as uſual, which ſtill remained in as much force as ever; and then ordered them all to return to their reſpective tents, with which order they inſtantly complied. Now we had ſaved the long-boat from the wreck, and got it in our poſſeſſion, there was nothing that ſeemed ſo neceſſary towards the advancing our delivery from this deſolate place, as the new modelling this veſſel ſo as to have room for all thoſe who were inclined to go off in her, and to put her in a condition to bear the ſtormy ſeas we muſt of courſe encounter. We therefore hauled her up, and having placed her upon blocks, ſawed her in two, in order to

lengthen

lengthen her about twelve feet by the keel. For this purpoſe, all thoſe who could be ſpared from the more immediate taſk of procuring ſubſiſtence, were employed in fitting and ſhaping timber as the carpenter directed them; I ſay, in procuring ſubſiſtence, becauſe the weather lately having been very tempeſtuous, and the wreck working much, had diſgorged a great part of her contents, which were every where diſperſed about the ſhore.

We now ſent frequent parties up the Lagoons, which ſometimes ſucceeded in getting ſome ſea-fowl for us. The Indians appearing again in the offing, we put off our yawl, in order to fruſtrate any deſign they might have of going up the Lagoon towards the deſerters, who would have availed themſelves of ſome of their canoes to have got upon the main. Having conducted them in, we found that their intention was to ſettle among us, for they had brought their

wives

wives and children with them, in all about fifty perſons, who immediately ſet about building themſelves wigwams, and ſeemed much reconciled to our company; and, could we have entertained them as we ought, they would have been of great aſſiſtance to us, who were yet extremely put to it to ſubſiſt ourſelves, being a hundred in number; but the men, now ſubject to little or no controul, endeavoured to ſeduce their wives, which gave the Indians ſuch offence, that in a ſhort time they found means to depart, taking every thing along with them; and we being ſenſible of the cauſe, never expected to ſee them return again. The carpenter having made ſome progreſs in his work upon the long-boat, in which he was enabled to proceed tolerably, by the tools and other articles of his buſineſs retrieved from the wreck, the men began to think of the courſe they ſhould take to get home; or rather, having bor-

rowed

rowed Sir John Narborough's Voyage of captain Cheap, by the application of Mr. Bulkely, which book he ſaw me reading one day in my tent, they, immediately upon peruſing it, concluded upon making their voyage home by the Streights of Magellan. This plan was propoſed to the captain, who by no means approved of it, his deſign being to go northwards, with a view of ſeizing a ſhip of the enemy's, by which means he might join the commodore: at preſent, therefore, here it reſted. But the men were in high ſpirits from the proſpect they had of getting off in the long-boat, overlooking all the difficulties and hazards of a voyage almoſt impracticable, and careſſing the carpenter, who indeed was an excellent workman, and deſerved all the encouragement they could give him. The Indians having left us, and the weather continuing tempeſtuous and rainy, the diſtreſſes of the people, for want of food,

became

became inſupportable. Our number, which was at firſt 145, was now reduced to 100, and chiefly by famine, which put the reſt upon all ſhifts and devices to ſupport themſelves. One day, when I was at home in my hut with my Indian dog, a party came to my door, and told me their neceſſities were ſuch, that they muſt eat the creature or ſtarve. Though their plea was urgent, I could not help uſing ſome arguments to endeavour to diſſuade them from killing him, as his faithful ſervices and fondneſs deſerved it at my hands; but, without weighing my arguments, they took him away by force and killed him; upon which, thinking that I had at leaſt as good a right to a ſhare as the reſt, I ſat down with them, and partook of their repaſt. Three weeks after that I was glad to make a meal of his paws and ſkin, which, upon recollecting the ſpot where they had killed him, I found

thrown

thrown aſide and rotten. The preſſing calls of hunger drove our men to their wits end, and put them upon a variety of devices to ſatisfy it. Among the ingenious this way, one Phips, a boatſwain's mate, having got a water puncheon, ſcuttled it; then laſhing two logs, one on each ſide, ſet out in queſt of adventures in this extraordinary and original piece of imbarkation. By this means he would frequently, when all the reſt were ſtarving, provide himſelf with wild-fowl; and it muſt have been very bad weather indeed which could deter him from putting out to ſea when his occaſions required. Sometimes he would venture far out in the offing, and be abſent the whole day: at laſt, it was his misfortune, at a great diſtance from ſhore, to be overſet by a heavy ſea; but being near a rock, though no ſwimmer, he managed ſo as to ſcramble to it, and with great difficulty aſcended it: there he remained two

days

with very little hopes of any relief, for he was too far off to be ſeen from ſhore; but fortunately a boat, having put off and gone in queſt of wild-fowl that way, diſcovered him making ſuch ſignals as he was able, and brought him back to the iſland. But this accident did not ſo diſcourage him but that ſoon after, having procured an ox's hide, uſed on board for ſifting powder, and called a gunner's hide, by the aſſiſtance of ſome hoops he formed ſomething like a canoe, in which he made ſeveral ſucceſsful voyages. When the weather would permit us, we ſeldom failed of getting ſome wild-fowl, though never in any plenty, by putting off with our boats; but this moſt inhoſpitable climate is not only deprived of the ſun for the moſt part, by a thick, rainy atmoſphere, but is alſo viſited by almoſt inceſſant tempeſts. It muſt be confeſſed, we reaped ſome benefit from theſe hard gales and overgrown ſeas,

which drove ſeveral things aſhore; but there was no dependance on ſuch accidental relief; and we were always alert to avail ourſelves of every interval of fair weather, though ſo little to be depended on, that we were often unexpectedly and to our peril overtaken by a ſudden change. In one of our excurſions I, with two more, in a wretched punt of our own making, had no ſooner landed at our ſtation upon a high rock, than the punt was driven looſe by a ſudden ſquall; and had not one of the men, at the riſk of his life, jumped into the ſea and ſwam on board her, we muſt in all probability have periſhed; for we were more than three leagues from the iſland at the time. Among the birds we generally ſhot, was the painted gooſe, whoſe plumage is variegated with the moſt lively colours; and a bird much larger than a gooſe, which we called the racehorſe, from the velocity with which

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ſt moved upon the ſurface of the water, in a ſort of half flying, half running motion. But we were not ſo ſucceſsful in our endeavours by land; for though we ſometimes got pretty far into the woods, we met with very few birds in all our walks. We never ſaw but three wood-cocks, two of which were killed by Mr. Hamilton, and one by myſelf. Theſe, with ſome humming-birds, and a large kind of robin redbreaſt, were the only feathered inhabitants of this iſland, excepting a ſmall bird with two very long feathers in his tail, which was generally ſeen amongſt the rocks, and was ſo tame, that I have had them reſt upon my ſhoulder whilſt I have been gathering ſhell- fiſh. Indeed, we were viſited by many birds of prey, ſome very large; but theſe only occaſionally, and, as we imagined, allured by ſome dead whale in the neighbourhood, which was once ſeen. However, if we

were ſo fortunate as to kill one of them, we thought ourſelves very well off. In one of my walks, ſeeing a bird of this latter kind upon an eminence, I endeavoured to come upon it unperceived with my gun, by means of the woods which lay at the back of that eminence; but when I had proceeded ſo far in the wood as to think I was in a line with it, I heard a growling cloſe by me, which made me think it adviſable to retire as ſoon as poſſible: the woods were ſo gloomy I could ſee nothing; but as I retired, this noiſe followed me cloſe till I had got out of them. Some of our men did aſſure me, that they had ſeen a very large beaſt in the woods; but their deſcription of it was too imperfect to be relied upon. The wood here is chiefly of the aromatic kind; the iron wood, a wood of a very deep red hue, and another, of an exceeding bright yellow. All the low ſpots are very ſwampy; but what

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we thought ſtrange, upon the ſummits of the higheſt hills were found beds of ſhells, a foot or two thick.

The long-boat being near finiſhed, ſome of our company were ſelected to go out in the barge, in order to reconnoitre the coaſt to the ſouthward, which might aſſiſt us in the navigation we were going upon. This party conſiſted of Mr. Bulkely, Mr. Jones, the purſer, myſelf, and ten men. The firſt night, we put into a good harbour, a few leagues to the ſouthward of Wager's Iſland; where finding a large bitch big with puppies, we regaled upon them. In this expedition we had our uſual bad weather, and breaking ſeas, which were grown to ſuch a height the third day, that we were obliged, through diſtreſs, to puſh in at the firſt inlet we ſaw at hand. This we had no ſooner entered, than we were preſented with a view of a fine bay, in which having ſecured the barge, we

went aſhore; but the weather being very rainy, and finding nothing to ſubſiſt upon, we pitched a bell tent, which we had brought with us, in the wood oppoſite to where the barge lay. As this tent was not large enough to contain us all, I propoſed to four of the people, to go to the end of the bay, about two miles diſtant from the bell tent, to occupy the ſkeleton of an old Indian wigwam, which I had diſcovered in a walk that way upon our firſt landing. This we covered to windward with ſea-weed; and lighting a fire, laid ourſelves down, in hopes of finding a remedy for our hunger in ſleep; but we had not long compoſed ourſelves before one of our company was diſturbed by the blowing of ſome animal at his face, and upon opening his eyes, was not a little aſtoniſhed to ſee, by the glimmering of the fire, a large beaſt ſtanding over him. He had preſence of

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mind enough to ſnatch a brand from the fire, which was now very low, and thruſt it at the noſe of the animal, who thereupon made off: this done, the man awoke us, and related, with horror in his countenance, the narrow eſcape he had of being devoured. But though we were under no ſmall apprehenſions of another viſit from this animal, yet our fatigue and heavineſs was greater than our fears; and we once more compoſed ourſelves to reſt, and ſlept the remainder of the night without any further diſturbance. In the morning, we were not a little anxious to know how our companions had fared; and this anxiety was increaſed upon tracing the footſteps of the beaſt in the ſand, in a direction towards the bell tent. The impreſſion was deep and plain, of a large round foot well furniſhed with claws. Upon our acquainting the people in the tent with the circumſtances of our

ſtory, we found that they too, had been viſited by the ſame unwelcome gueſt, which they had driven away by much the ſame expedient. We now returned from this cruiſe, with a ſtrong gale, to Wager's iſland; having found it impracticable to make farther diſcoveries in the barge, on ſo dangerous a coaſt, and in ſuch heavy ſeas. Here we ſoon diſcovered, by the quarters of dogs hanging up, that the Indians had brought a freſh ſupply to our market. Upon enquiry, we found that there had been ſix canoes of them, who, among other methods of taking fiſh, had taught their dogs to drive the fiſh into a corner of ſome pond, or lake, from whence they were eaſily taken out, by the ſkill and addreſs of theſe ſavages. The old cabal, during our abſence, had been frequently revived; the debates of which generally ended in riot and drunkenneſs. This cabal was chiefly held in a large

tent,

tent, which the people belonging to it had taken ſome pains to make ſnug and convenient, and lined with bales of broad cloth driven from the wreck. Eighteen of the ſtouteſt fellows of the ſhip's company had poſſeſſion of this tent, from whence were diſpatched committees to the captain, with the reſolutions they had taken with regard to their departure; but oftener for liquor. Their determination was to go in the long-boat to the ſouthward, by the Streights of Magellan; and the point they were labouring, was to prevail upon the captain to accompany them. But though he had fixed upon a quite different plan, which was to go to the northward, yet he thought it politic, at preſent, ſeemingly to acquieſce with them, in order to keep them quiet. When they began to ſtipulate with him, that he ſhould be under ſome reſtrictions in point of command, and ſhould

do nothing without conſulting his officers, he inſiſted upon the full exerciſe of his authority, as before. This broke all meaſures between them, and they were from this time determined he ſhould go with them, whether he would or no. A better pretence they could not have for effecting this deſign, than the unfortunate affair of Mr. Cozens; which they therefore made uſe of for ſeizing his perſon, and putting him under confinement, in order to bring him to his trial in England. The long-boat was now launched, and ready for ſailing, and all the men embarked, except captain Pemberton, with a party of marines, who drew them up upon the beach with intent to conduct captain Cheap on board; but he was at length perſuaded to deſiſt from this reſolution by Mr. Bulkly. The men too, finding they were ſtraitened for room, and that their ſtock of proviſion would not admit

mit of their taking ſupernumeraries aboard, were now no leſs ſtrenuous for his enlargement, and being left to his option of ſtaying behind. Therefore, after having diſtributed their ſhare in the reſerved ſtock of proviſion, which was very ſmall, we departed, leaving captain Cheap, Mr. Hamilton of the marines, and the ſurgeon, upon the iſland. I had all along been in the dark as to the turn this affair would take; and not in the leaſt ſuſpecting but that it was determined captain Cheap ſhould be taken with us, readily embarked under that perſuaſion; but when I found that this deſign, which was ſo ſerioufly carried on to the laſt, was ſuddenly dropped, I was determined, upon the firſt opportunity, to leave them; which was at this inſtant impoſſible for me to do, the long-boat lying ſome diſtance off ſhore, at anchor. We were in all eighty-one, when we left the iſland, diſtributed into the

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long-boat, cutter, and barge; fifty-nine on board the firſt, twelve in the ſecond, in the laſt, ten. It was our purpoſe to put into ſome harbour, if poſſible, every evening, as we were in no condition to keep thoſe terrible ſeas long; for without other aſſiſtance, our ſtock of proviſions was no more than might have been conſumed in a few days; our water was chiefly contained in a few powder-barrels; our flour was to be lengthened out by a mixture of ſea-weed; and our other ſupplies depended upon the ſucceſs of our guns, and induſtry among the rocks. Captain Pemberton having brought on board his men, we weighed; but by a ſudden ſquall of wind having ſplit our foreſail, we with difficulty cleared the rocks, by means of our boats, bore away for a ſandy bay, on the ſouth ſide of the Lagoon, and anchored in ten fathom. The next morning we got under way; but it blowing hard at W. by N.

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with a great ſwell, put into a ſmall bay again, well ſheltered by a ledge of rocks without us. At this time, it was thought neceſſary to ſend the barge away back to Cheap's bay, for ſome ſpare canvas, which was imagined would be ſoon wanted. I thought this a good opportunity of returning, and therefore made one with thoſe who went upon this buſineſs in the barge. We were no ſooner clear of the long-boat, than all thoſe in the boat with me declared they had the ſame intention. When we arrived at the iſland, we were extremely welcome to captain Cheap. The next day, I aſked him leave to try if I could prevail upon thoſe in the long-boat to give us our ſhare of proviſion: this he granted; but ſaid if we went in the barge, they would certainly take her from us. I told him my deſign was to walk it, and only deſired the boat might land me upon the main, and wait for me

till I came back. I had the moſt dreadful journey of it imaginable, through thick woods and ſwamps all the way; but I might as well have ſpared myſelf that trouble, as it was to no manner of purpoſe; for they would not give me, nor any one of us that left them, a ſingle ounce of proviſions of any kind. I therefore returned, and after that made a ſecond attempt; but all in vain. They even threatened, if we did not return with the barge, they would fetch her by force. It is impoſſible to conceive the diſtreſſed ſituation we were now in, at the time of the long-boat's departure. I don't mention this event as the occaſion of it; by which, if we who were left on the iſland experienced any alteration at all, it was for the better; and which, in all probability, had it been deferred, might have been fatal to the greateſt part of us; but at this time, the ſubſiſtence on which we had hitherto depended

pended chiefly, which was the ſhell-fiſh, were every where, àlong ſhore, eat up ; and as to ſtock ſaved from the wreck, it may be gueſſed what the amount of that might be, when the ſhare allotted to the captain, lieutenant Hamilton, and the ſurgeon, was no more than ſix pieces of beef, as many of pork, and ninety pounds of flour. As to myſelf, and thoſe that left the long-boat, it was the leaſt revenge they thought they could take of us to with-hold our proviſion from us, though at the ſame time it was hard and unjuſt. For a day or two after our return, there was ſome little pittance dealt out to us, yet it was upon the foot of favour ; and we were ſoon left to our uſual induſtry for a farther ſupply. This was now exerted to very little purpoſe, for the reaſon before aſſigned ; to which may be added, the wreck was now blown up, all her upper works gone, and no hopes of any valuable driftage from her

for the future. A weed called ſlaugh, fried in the tallow of ſome candles we had ſaved, and wild ſellery, were our only fare; by which our ſtrength was ſo much impaired, that we could ſcarcely crawl. It was my misfortune too, to labour under a ſevere flux, by which I was reduced to a very feeble ſtate; ſo that in attempting to traverſe the rocks in ſearch of ſhell-fiſh, I fell from one into very deep water, and with difficulty ſaved my life by ſwimming. As the captain was now freed, by the departure of the long-boat, from the riotous applications, menaces, and diſturbance of an unruly crew, and left at liberty to follow the plan he had reſolved upon, of going northward, he began to think ſeriouſly of putting it in execution; in order to which, a meſſage was ſent to the deſerters, who had ſeated themſelves on the other ſide of the neighbouring Lagoon, to found them, whether they were

were inclined to join the captain in his undertaking; and if they were, to bring them over to him. For this fett, the party gone off in the long-boat had left an half allowance proportion of the common ſtock of proviſion. Theſe men, upon the propoſal, readily agreed to join their commander; and being conducted to him, increaſed our number to twenty. The boats which remained in our poſſeſſion to carry off all theſe people, were only the barge and yawl, two very crazy bottoms; the broadſide of the laſt was entirely out, and the firſt had ſuffered much in variety of bad weather ſhe had gone through, and was much out of repair. And now our carpenter was gone from us, we had no remedy for theſe misfortunes, but the little ſkill we had gained from him. However, we made tolerable ſhift to patch up the boats for our purpoſe. In the height of our diſtreſſes, when hunger,

which ſeems to include and abſorb all others, was moſt prevailing, we were cheared with the appearance, once more, of our friendly Indians, as we thought, from whom we hoped for ſome relief; but as the conſideration was wanting, for which alone they would part with their commodities, we were not at all benefited by their ſtay, which was very ſhort. The little reſerve too of flour made by the captain for our ſea-ſtock when we ſhould leave the iſland, was now diminiſhed by theft: the thieves, who were three of our men, were however ſoon diſcovered, and two of them apprehended; but the third made his eſcape to the woods. Conſidering the preſſing ſtate of our neceſſities, this theft was looked upon as a moſt heinous crime, and therefore required an extraordinary puniſhment: accordingly the captain ordered theſe delinquents to be ſeverely whipped, and then to be baniſhed to an iſland at ſome diſtance

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from us; but before this latter part of the ſentence could be put in execution, one of them fled; but the other was put alone upon a barren iſland, which afforded not the leaſt ſhelter; however, we, in compaſſion, and contrary to order, patched him up a bit of a hut, and kindled him a fire, and then left the poor wretch to ſhift for himſelf. In two or three days after, going to the iſland in our boat with ſome little refreſhment, ſuch as our miſerable circumſtances would admit of, and with an intent of bringing him back, we found him dead and ſtiff. I was now reduced to the loweſt condition by my illneſs, which was increaſed by the vile ſtuff I eat, when we were favoured by a fair day, a thing very extraordinary in this climate. We inſtantly took the advantage of it, and once more viſited the laſt remains of the wreck, her bottom. Here our pains were repaid with the great good fortune of hooking up three

caſks of beef, which were brought ſafe to ſhore. This providential ſupply could not have happened at a more ſeaſonable time than now, when we were afflicted with the greateſt dearth we had ever experienced, and the little ſtrength we had remaining was to be exerted in our endeavours to leave the iſland. Accordingly we ſoon found a remedy for our ſickneſs, which was nothing but the effects of famine, and were greatly reſtored by food. The proviſion was equally diſtributed among us all, and ſerved us for the remainder of our ſtay here.

We began to grow extremely impatient to leave the iſland, as the days were now nearly at their longeſt, and about midſummer in theſe parts; but as to the weather, there ſeems to be little difference in a difference of ſeaſons. Accordingly, on the 15th of December, the day being tolerable, we told captain Cheap we thought it a fine opportunity to run

acroſs the bay. But he firſt deſired two or three of us to accompany him to our place of obſervation, the top of Mount Miſery; when looking through his perſpective, he obſerved to us that the ſea ran very high without. However, this had no weight with the people, who were deſirous, at all events, to be gone. I ſhould here obſerve, that captain Cheap's plan was, if poſſible, to get to the iſland of Chiloe; and if we found any veſſel there, to board her immediately, and cut her out. This he might certainly have done with eaſe, had it been his good fortune to get round with the boats. We now launched both boats, and got every thing on board of them as quick as poſſible. Captain Cheap, the ſurgeon, and myſelf, were in the barge with nine men; and lieutenant Hamilton and Mr. Campbell in the yawl with ſix. I ſteered the barge, and Mr. Campbell the yawl; but we had not been two

hours at ſea before the wind ſhifted more to the weſtward, and began to blow very hard, and the ſea ran extremely high; ſo that we could no longer keep our heads towards the cape or headland we had deſigned for. This cape we had had a view of in one of the intervals of fair weather, during our abode on the iſland, from Mount Miſery; and it ſeemed to be diſtant between twenty and thirty leagues from us. We were now obliged to bear away right before the wind. Though the yawl was not far from us, we could ſee nothing of her, except now and then, upon the top of a mountainous ſea. In both the boats, the men were obliged to ſit as cloſe as poſſible, to receive the ſeas on their backs, to prevent their filling us, which was what we every moment expected. We were obliged to throw every thing overboard to lighten the boats, all our beef, and even the grapnel, to prevent ſinking.

Night

Night was coming on, and we were running on a lee-ſhore faſt, where the ſea broke in a frightful manner. Not one amongſt us imagined it poſſible for boats to live in ſuch a ſea. In this ſituation, as we neared the ſhore, expecting to be beat to pieces by the firſt breaker, we perceived a ſmall opening between the rocks, which we ſtood for, and found a very narrow paſſage between them, which brought us into a harbour for the boats as calm and ſmooth as a mill-pond. The yawl had got in before us, and our joy was great at meeting again after ſo unexpected a deliverance. Here we ſecured the boats, and aſcended a rock. It rained exceſſively hard all the firſt part of the night, and was extremely cold; and though we had not a dry thread about us, and no wood could be found for firing, we were obliged to paſs the night in that uncomfortable ſituation, without any covering, ſhivering

in our wet cloaths. The froſt coming on with the morning, it was impoſſible for any of us to get a moment's ſleep; and having flung overboard our proviſion the day before, there being no proſpect of finding any thing to eat on this coaſt, in the morning we pulled out of the cove; but found ſo great a ſea without, that we could make but little of it. After tugging all day, towards night we put in among ſome ſmall iſlands, landed upon one of them, and found it a mere ſwamp. As the weather was the ſame, we paſſed this night much as we had done the preceding; ſea-tangle was all we could get to eat at firſt, but the next day we had better luck; the ſurgeon ſhot a gooſe, and we found materials for a good fire. We were confined here three or four days, the weather all that time proving ſo bad that we could not put out. As ſoon as it grew moderate, we left this place, and ſhaped

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our courſe to the northward; and perceiving a large opening between very high land and a low point, we ſteered for it; and when got that length, found a large bay, down which we rowed, flattering ourſelves there might be a paſſage that way; but towards night we came to the bottom of the bay, and finding no outlet, we were obliged to return the ſame way we came, having met with nothing the whole day to alleviate our hunger.

Next night we put into a little cove, which, from the great quantity of redwood found there, we called Redwood Cove. Leaving this place in the morning, we had the wind ſoutherly, blowing freſh, by which we made much way that day, to the northward. Towards evening we were in with a pretty large iſland. Putting aſhore on it, we found it cloathed with the fineſt trees we had ever ſeen, their ſtems running up to a

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prodigious height, without knot or branch, and as ſtrait as cedars: the leaf of theſe trees reſembled the myrtle leaf, only ſomewhat larger. I have ſeen trees larger than theſe in circumference, on the coaſt of Guinea, and there only ; but for a length of ſtem, which gradually tapering, I have no where met with any to compare to them. The wood was of a hard ſubſtance, and if not too heavy, would have made good maſts; the dimenſions of ſome of theſe trees being equal to a main-maſt of a firſt rate man of war. The ſhore was covered with drift wood of a very large ſize ; moſt of it cedar, which makes a briſk fire ; but is ſo ſubject to ſnap and fly, that when we waked in the morning, after a found ſleep, we found our cloaths ſinged in many places with the ſparks, and covered with ſplinters.

The next morning being calm, we rowed out; but as ſoon as clear of the iſland,

iſland, we found a great ſwell from the weſtward; we rowed to the bottom of a very large bay, which was to the northward of us, the land very low, and we were in hopes of finding ſome inlet through, but did not; ſo kept along ſhore to the weſtward. This part, which I take to be above fifty leagues from Wager Iſland, is the very bottom of the large bay it lays in. Here was the only paſſage to be found, which (if we could by any means have got information of it) would have ſaved us much fruitleſs labour. Of this paſſage I ſhall have occaſion to ſay more hereafter.

Having at this time an off-ſhore wind, we kept the land cloſe on board, till we came to a head-land: it was near night before we got a-breaſt of the head-land, and opening it diſcovered a very large bay to the northward, and another head-land to the weſtward, at a great diſtance. We endeavoured to cut ſhort our paſſage

to

to it by croſſing, which is very ſeldom to be effected, in theſe over-grown ſeas, by boats: and this we experienced now; for the wind ſpringing up, and beginning to blow freſh, we were obliged to put back towards the firſt head-land, into a ſmall cove, juſt big enough to ſhelter the two boats. Here an accident happened that alarmed us much. After ſecuring our boats we climbed up a rock ſcarcely large enough to contain our numbers: having nothing to eat, we betook ourſelves to our uſual receipt for hunger, which was going to ſleep. We accordingly made a fire, and ſtowed ourſelves round it as well as we could; but two of our men being incommoded for want of room, went a little way from us, into a ſmall nook, over which a great cliff hung, and ſerved them for a canopy. In the middle of the night we were awakened with a terrible rumbling, which we apprehended to be nothing leſs than

the ſhock of an earthquake, which we had before experienced in theſe parts; and this conjecture we had reaſon to think not ill founded, upon hearing hollow groans and cries as of men half ſwallowed up. We immediately got up, and ran to the place from whence the cries came, and then we were put out of all doubt as to the opinion we had formed of this accident; for here we found the two men almoſt buried under looſe ſtones and earth: but upon a little farther enquiry, we were undeceived as to the cauſe we had imputed this noiſe to, which we found to be occaſioned by the ſudden giving way of the impending cliff, which fell a little beyond our people, carrying trees and rocks with it, and looſe earth; the latter of which fell in part on our men, whom we with ſome pains reſcued from their uneaſy ſituation, from which they eſcaped with ſome bruiſes. The next morning we got out early,

early, and the wind being weſterly, rowed the whole day for the head-land we had ſeen the night before ; but when we had got that length could find no harbour, but were obliged to go into a ſandy bay, and lay the whole night upon our oars ; and a moſt dreadful one it proved, blowing and raining very hard. Here we were ſo pinched with hunger, that we eat the ſhoes off our feet, which conſiſted of raw ſeal ſkin. In the morning we got out of the bay; but the inceſſant foul weather had overcome us, and we began to be indifferent as to what befel us ; and the boats, in the night, making into a bay, we nearly loſt the yawl, a breaker having filled her, and driven her aſhore upon the beach. This, by ſome of our accounts, was Chriſtmas-day ; but our accounts had ſo often been interrupted by our diſtreſſes, that there was no depending upon them. Upon ſeeing the yawl in this imminent

danger, the barge ſtood off, and went into another bay to the northward of it, where it was ſmoother lying; but there was no poſſibility of getting on ſhore. In the night the yawl joined us again. The next day was ſo bad, that we deſpaired reaching the head-land, ſo rowed down the bay in hopes of getting ſome ſeal, as that animal had been ſeen the day before, but met with no ſucceſs; ſo returned to the ſame bay we had been in the night before, where the ſurf having abated ſomewhat, we went aſhore, and picked up a few ſhell-fiſh. In the morning, we got on board early, and ran along ſhore to the weſtward, for about three leagues, in order to get round a cape, which was the weſternmoſt land we could ſee. It blew very hard, and there ran ſuch a ſea, that we heartily wiſhed ourſelves back again, and accordingly made the beſt of our way for

that bay which we had left in the morning; but before we could reach it night came on, and we paſſed a moſt diſmal one, lying upon our oars.

The weather continuing very bad, we put in for the ſhore in the morning, where we found nothing but tangle and ſea-weed. We now paſſed ſome days roving about for proviſions, as the weather was too bad to make another attempt to get round the cape as yet. We found ſome fine Lagoons towards the head of the bay; and in them killed ſome ſeal, and got a good quantity of ſhell-fiſh, which was a great relief to us. We now made a ſecond attempt to double the cape; but when we got the length of it, and paſſed the firſt headland, for it conſiſts of three of an equal height, we got into a ſea that was horrid; for it ran all in heaps, like the Race of Portland, but much worſe. We

were

were happy to put back again to the old place, with little hopes of ever getting round this cape.

Next day, the weather proving very bad, all hands went aſhore to procure ſome ſuſtenance, except two in each boat, which were left as boat-keepers: this office we took by turns; and it was now my lot to be upon this duty with another man. The yawl lay within us at a grapnel; in the night it blew very hard, and a great ſea tumbled in upon the ſhore; but being extremely fatigued, we in the boats went to ſleep: notwithſtanding, however, I was at laſt awakened by the uncommon motion of the boat, and the roaring of the breakers every where about us. At the ſame time I heard a ſhrieking, like to that of perſons in diſtreſs; I looked out, and ſaw the yawl canted bottom upwards by a ſea, and ſoon afterwards diſappeared. One of our

men, whoſe name was William Roſe, a quarter-maſter, was drowned; the other was thrown aſhore by the ſurf, with his head buried in the ſand; but by the immediate aſſiſtance of the people on ſhore, was ſaved. As for us in the barge, we expected the ſame fate every moment; for the ſea broke a long way without us. However, we got her head to it, and hove up our grapnel, or ſhould rather ſay kellick, which we had made to ſerve in the room of our grapnel, hove overboard ſome time before, to lighten the boat. By this means we uſed our utmoſt efforts to pull her without the breakers ſome way, and then let go our kellick again. Here we lay all the next day, in a great ſea, not knowing what would be our fate. To add to our mortification, we could ſee our companions in tolerable plight aſhore, eating ſeal, while we were ſtarving with hunger and cold.

For

For this month paſt, we had not known what it was to have a dry thread about us.

The next day being ſomething more moderate, we ventured in with the barge as near as we could to the ſhore, and our companions threw us ſome ſeals liver; which having eat greedily, we were ſeized with exceſſive ſickneſs, which affected us ſo much, that our ſkin peeled off from head to foot.

Whilſt the people were on ſhore here, Mr. Hamilton met with a large ſeal, or ſea-lion, and fired a brace of balls into him, upon which the animal turned upon him open-mouthed; but preſently fixing his bayonet, he thruſt it down its throat, with a good part of the barrel of the gun, which the creature bit in two ſeemingly with as much eaſe as if it had been a twig. Notwithſtanding the wounds it received, it eluded all farther efforts to kill it, and got clear off.

I call this animal a large ſeal, or ſea-lion, becauſe it reſembles a ſeal in many particulars; but then it exceeds it ſo much in ſize, as to be ſufficiently determined, by that diſtinction only, to be of another ſpecies. Mr. Walter, in Lord Anſon's Voyage, has given a particular deſcription of thoſe which are ſeen about Juan Fernandes; but they have in other climates, different appearances as well as different qualities, as we had occaſion to obſerve in this, and a late voyage I made. However, as ſo much already has been ſaid of the ſea-lion, I ſhall only mention two peculiarities; one relative to its appearance, and the other to its properties of action, which diſtinguiſh it from thoſe deſcribed by him. Thoſe I ſaw, were without that ſnout, or trunk, hanging below the end of the upper jaw; but then the males were furniſhed with a large ſhaggy mane, which gave them a moſt formidable appearance. And,

whereas,

whereas, he ſays, thoſe he ſaw were unwieldy, and eaſily deſtroyed, we found ſome, on the contrary, that lay at a mile's diſtance from the water, which came down upon us, when diſturbed, with ſuch impetuoſity, that it was as much as we could do to get out of their way; and when attacked, would turn upon us with great agility.

Having loſt the yawl, and being too many for the barge to carry off, we were compelled to leave four of our men behind. They were all marines, who ſeemed to have no great objection to the determination made with regard to them, ſo exceedingly diſheartened and worn out were they with the diſtreſſes and dangers they had already gone through. And, indeed, I believe it would have been a matter of indifference to the greateſt part of the reſt, whether they ſhould embark, or take their chance. The captain diſtributed to theſe poor fellows arms

and ammunition, and ſome other neceſ-ſaries. When we parted, they ſtood up-on the beach, giving us three cheers, and called out, God bleſs the king. We ſaw them a little after, ſetting out upon their forlorn hope, and help-ing one another over a hideous tract of rocks; but conſidering the difficul-ties attending this only way of tra-velling left them; for the woods are impracticable, from their thickneſs, and the deep ſwamp every where to be met in them; conſidering too, that the coaſt here is rendered ſo inhoſ-pitable, by the heavy ſeas that are con-ſtantly tumbling upon it, as not to afford even a little ſhell-fiſh, it is probable that all met with a miſerable end.

We rowed along ſhore to the weſt-ward, in order to make one more at-tempt to double the cape: when abreaſt of the firſt head-land there ran ſuch a ſea,

that we expected, every inſtant, the boat would go down. But as the preſervation of life had now, in a great meaſure, loſt its actuating principle upon us, we ſtill kept puſhing through it, till we opened a bay to the northward. In all my life, I never ſaw ſo dreadful a ſea as drove in here; it began to break at more than half a mile from the ſhore. Perceiving now that it was impoſſible for any boat to get round, the men lay upon their oars till the boat was very near the breakers, the mountainous ſwell that then ran, heaving her in at a great rate. I thought it was their intention to put an end to their lives and miſery at once; but nobody ſpoke for ſome time. At laſt, captain Cheap told them, they muſt either periſh immediately, or pull ſtoutly for it to get off the ſhore; but they might do as they pleaſed. They choſe, however, to exert themſelves a little, and after infinite difficulty, got round the

head-land again, giving up all thoughts of making any further attempt to double the cape. It was night before we could get back to the bay, where we were compelled to leave four of our men, in order to ſave, if poſſible, the remainder; for we muſt all have certainly periſhed, if more than ſixteen had been crouded into ſo ſmall a boat: This bay we named Marine Bay. When we had returned to this bay, we found the ſurf ran ſo high, that we were obliged to lay upon our oars all night; and it was now reſolved to go back to Wager's Iſland, there to linger out a miſerable life, as we had not the leaſt proſpect of returning home.

But before we ſet out, in conſequence of this reſolution, it was neceſſary, if poſſible, to get ſome little ſtock of ſeal to ſupport us in a paſſage, upon which, wherever we might put in, we were not likely to meet with any ſupply. Ac-

cordingly,

cordingly, it was determined to go up that Lagoon in which we had before got ſome ſeal, to provide ourſelves with ſome more; but we did not leave the bay till we had made ſome ſearch after the unhappy marines we had left on ſhore. Could we have found them, we had now agreed to take them on board again, though it would have been the certain deſtruction of us all. This, at another time, would have been mere madneſs; but we were now reſigned to our fate, which we none of us thought far off; however, there was nothing to be ſeen of them, and no traces but a muſket on the beach.

Upon returning up the Lagoon, we were ſo fortunate as to kill ſome ſeal, which we boiled, and laid in the boat for ſea-ſtock. While we were ranging along ſhore in detached parties, in queſt of this, and whatever other eatable might come in our way, our ſurgeon,

who

who was then by himſelf, diſcovered a pretty large hole, which ſeemed to lead to ſome den, or repoſitory, within the rocks. It was not ſo rude, or natural, but that there were ſome ſigns of its having been cleared, and made more acceſſible by induſtry. The ſurgeon for ſome time heſitated whether he ſhould venture in, from his uncertainty as to the reception he might meet with from any inhabitant; but his curioſity getting the better of his fears, he determined to go in; which he did upon his hands and knees, as the paſſage was too low for him to enter otherwiſe. After having proceeded a conſiderable way thus, he arrived at a ſpacious chamber; but whether hollowed out by hands, or natural, he could not be poſitive. The light into this chamber was conveyed through a hole at the top; in the midſt was a kind of bier, made of ſticks laid croſſways, ſupported by props of about five foot in height.

height. Upon this bier, five or ſix bodies were extended; which, in appearance, had been depoſited there a long time; but had ſuffered no decay or diminution. They were without covering, and the fleſh of theſe bodies was become perfectly dry and hard; which, whether done by any art, or ſecret, the ſavages may be poſſeſſed of, or occaſioned by any drying virtue in the air of the cave, could not be gueſſed. Indeed, the ſurgeon, finding nothing there to eat, which was the chief inducement for his creeping into this hole, did not amuſe himſelf with long diſquiſitions, or make that accurate examination which he would have done at another time; but crawling out as he came in, he went and told the firſt he met of what he had ſeen. Some had the curioſity to go in likewiſe. I had forgot to mention that there was another range of bodies, depoſited in the ſame manner, upon another

platform

platform under the bier. Probably this was the burial-place of their great men, called caciques; but from whence they could be brought, we were utterly at a loſs to conceive, there being no traces of any Indian ſettlement hereabout. We had ſeen no ſavage ſince we left the iſland, or obſerved any marks in the coves, or bays to the northward, where we had touched, ſuch as of fire-places, or old wigwams, which they never fail of leaving behind them; and it is very probable, from the violent ſeas that are always beating upon this coaſt, its deformed aſpect, and the very ſwampy ſoil that every where borders upon it, that it is little frequented.

We now croſſed the firſt bay for the head-land we left on Chriſtmas day, much dejected; for under our former ſufferings, we were in ſome meaſure ſupported with the hopes that, as we advanced, however little, they were ſo much

the

the nearer their termination; but now our proſpect was diſmal and diſpiriting, indeed, as we had the ſame difficulties and dangers to encounter, not only without any flattering views to leſſen them, but under the aggravating circumſtance of their leading to an inevitable and miſerable death; for we could not poſſibly conceive that the fate of ſtarving could be avoided by any human means, upon that deſolate iſland we were returning to. The ſhell-fiſh, which was the only ſubſiſtence that iſland had hitherto afforded in any meaſure, was exhauſted; and the Indians had ſhewn themſelves ſo little affected by the common incitements of compaſſion, that we had no hopes to build upon any impreſſions of that ſort in them. They had already refuſed to barter their dogs with us, for want of a valuable commodity on our ſide; ſo that it is wonderful we did not give ourſelves up to deſpondency, and lay aſide

all

all farther attempts; but we were ſupported by that inviſible Power, who can make the moſt untoward circumſtances ſubſervient to his gracious purpoſes.

At this time, our uſual bad weather attended us; the night too ſet in long before we could reach the cove we before had taken ſhelter in; ſo that we were obliged to keep the boat's head to the ſea all night, the ſea every where a-ſtern of us, running over hideous breakers. In the morning, we deſigned ſtanding over for that iſland in which we had obſerved thoſe ſtrait and lofty trees beforementioned, and which captain Cheap named Montroſe Iſland; but as ſoon as we opened the head-land to the weſtward of us, a ſudden ſquall took the boat, and very near overſet her. We were inſtantly full of water; but by baling with our hats and hands, and any thing that would hold water, we with difficulty freed her. Under this alarming circum-

circumſtance, we found it adviſeable to return back and put into the cove, which the night before we were prevented getting into. We were detained here two or three days, by exceeding bad weather; ſo that, had we not fortunately provided ourſelves with ſome ſeal, we muſt have ſtarved, for this place afforded us nothing.

At length we reached Montroſe Iſland. This is by much the beſt and pleaſanteſt ſpot we had ſeen in this part of the world; though it has nothing on it eatable but ſome berries, which reſembled gooſeberries in flavour: they are of a black hue, and grow in ſwampy ground; and the buſh, or tree, that bears them is much taller than that of our gooſeberries. We remained here ſome time, living upon theſe berries, and the remainder of our ſeal, which was now grown quite rotten. Our two or three firſt attempts to put out from this iſland were without

out ſucceſs, the tempeſtuous weather obliging us ſo often to put back again. One of our people was much inclined to remain here, thinking it at leaſt as good a place as Wager's Iſland to end his days upon; but he was obliged by the reſt to go off with them. We had not been long out before it began to blow a ſtorm of wind; and the miſt came on ſo thick, that we could not ſee the land, and were at a loſs which way to ſteer; but we heard the ſea, which ran exceedingly high, breaking near us; upon which we immediately hauled aft the ſheet, and hardly weathered the breakers by a boat's length. At the ſame time we ſhipped a ſea that nearly filled us: it ſtruck us with that violence as to throw me, and one or two more, down into the bottom of the boat, where we were half drowned before we could get up again. This was one of the moſt extraordinary eſcapes we had in

the courſe of this expedition; for captain Cheap, and every one elſe, had entirely given themſelves up for loſt. However, it pleaſed God that we got that evening into Redwood Cove, where the weather continued ſo bad all night, we could keep no fire in to dry ourſelves with; but there being no other alternative for us, but to ſtay here and ſtarve, or put to ſea again, we choſe the latter, and put out in the morning again, though the weather was very little mended. In three or four days after, we arrived at our old ſtation, Wager's iſland; but in ſuch a miſerable plight, that though we thought our condition upon ſetting out would not admit of any additional circumſtance of miſery, yet it was to be envied in compariſon of what we now ſuffered, ſo worn and reduced were we by fatigue and hunger; having eat nothing for ſome days but ſea-weed and tangle. Upon this expedition, we had

been out, by our account, juſt two months; in which we had rounded, backwards and forwards, the great bay formed to the northward by that high land we had obſerved from Mount Miſery.

The firſt thing we did upon our arrival, was to ſecure the barge, as this was our ſole dependence for any relief that might offer by ſea; which done, we repaired to our huts, which formed a kind of village or ſtreet, conſiſting of ſeveral irregular habitations; ſome of which being covered by a kind of bruſh-wood thatch, afforded tolerable ſhelter againſt the inclemency of the weather. Among theſe, there was one which we obſerved with ſome ſurpriſe to be nailed up. We broke it open, and found ſome iron work, picked out with much pains from thoſe pieces of the wreck which were driven aſhore. We concluded from hence, that the Indians

who

who had been here in our abſence, were not of that tribe with which we had ſome commerce before, who ſeemed to ſet no value upon iron, but from ſome other quarter; and muſt have had communication with the Spaniards, from whom they had learned the value and uſe of that commodity. Thieving from ſtrangers is a commendable talent among ſavages in general, and beſpeaks an addreſs which they much admire; though the ſtricteſt honeſty, with regard to the property of each other, is obſerved among them. There is no doubt but they ranſacked all our houſes; but the men had taken care, before they went off in the long-boat, to ſtrip them of their moſt valuable furniture; that is, the bales of cloth uſed for lining, and converted them into trowſers and watch-coats. Upon farther ſearch, we found, thrown aſide in the buſhes, at the back of one of the huts, ſome pieces of ſeal, in a very putrid condition; which, how-

ever, our ſtomachs were far from loathing. The next buſineſs which the people ſet about very ſeriouſly, was to proceed to Mount Miſery, and bury the corpſe of the murdered perſon, mentioned to have been diſcovered there ſome little time after our being caſt away; for to the neglect of this neceſſary tribute to that unfortunate perſon, the men aſſigned all their ill ſucceſs upon the late expedition.

That common people in general are addicted to ſuperſtitious conceits, is an obſervation founded on experience; and the reaſon is evident: but I cannot allow that common ſeamen are more ſo than others of the lower claſs. In the moſt enlightened ages of antiquity, we find it to have been the popular opinion, that the ſpirits of the dead were not at reſt till their bodies were interred; and that they did not ceaſe to haunt and trouble thoſe who had neglected this

duty

duty to the departed. This is ſtill believed by the vulgar, in moſt countries; and in our men, this perſuaſion was much heightened by the melancholy condition they were reduced to; and was farther confirmed by an occurrence which happened ſome little time before we went upon our laſt expedition. One night we were alarmed with a ſtrange cry, which reſembled that of a man drowning. Many of us ran out of our huts towards the place from whence the noiſe proceeded, which was not far off ſhore; where we could perceive, but not diſtinctly (for it was then moon-light), an appearance like that of a man ſwimming half out of water. The noiſe that this creature uttered was ſo unlike that of any animal they had heard before, that it made a great impreſſion upon the men; and they frequently recalled this apparition at the time of their diſtreſſes, with reflexions on the neglect

of the office they were now fulfilling.

We were ſoon driven again to the greateſt ſtraits for want of ſomething to ſubſiſt upon, by the extreme bad weather that now ſet in upon us. Wild ſellery was all we could procure, which raked our ſtomachs inſtead of aſſuaging our hunger. That dreadful and laſt reſource of men, in not much worſe circumſtances than ours, of conſigning one man to death for the ſupport of the reſt, began to be mentioned in whiſpers; and indeed there were ſome among us who, by eating what they found raw, were become little better than canibals. But fortunately for us, and opportunely to prevent this horrid proceeding, Mr. Hamilton, at this time, found ſome rotten pieces of beef, caſt up by the ſea at ſome miles diſtance from the huts, which he, though a temptation which few would have reſiſted in parallel circumſtances,

ſcorned

ſcorned to conceal from the reſt; but generouſly diſtributed among us.

A few days after, the myſtery of the nailing up of the hut, and what had been doing by the Indians upon the iſland in our abſence, was partly explained to us; for about the 15th day after our return, there came a party of Indians to the iſland in two canoes, who were not a little ſurpriſed to find us here again. Among theſe, was an Indian of the tribe of the Chonos, who live in the neighbourhood of Chiloe*. He talked the Spaniſh language; but with that ſavage accent which renders it almoſt unintelligible to any but thoſe who are adepts in that language. He was likewiſe a cacique, or leading man of his tribe; which authority was confirmed to him by the Spaniards; for he carried the uſual badge

* Chiloe is an iſland on the weſtern coaſt of America, about the 43d deg. of S. latitude; and the ſouthernmoſt ſettlement under the Spaniſh juriſdiction on that coaſt.

and mark of diſtinction by which the Spaniards, and their dependents, hold their military and civil employments; which is a ſtick with a ſilver head. Theſe badges, of which the Indians are very vain, at once ſerve to retain the cacique in the ſtrongeſt attachment to the Spaniſh government, and give him greater weight with his own dependents: yet, withal, he is the mereſt ſlave, and has not one thing he can call his own. This report of our ſhipwreck (as we ſuppoſed) having reached the Chonos, by means of the intermediate tribes, which handed it to one another, from thoſe Indians who firſt viſited us; this cacique was either ſent to learn the truth of the rumour, or having firſt got the intelligence, ſet out with a view of making ſome advantage of the wreck, and appropriating ſuch iron-work as he could gather from it to his own uſe: for that metal is become very valuable to thoſe ſavages, ſince their

commerce

commerce with the Spaniards has taught them to apply it to ſeveral purpoſes. But as the ſecreting any thing from a rapacious Spaniſh rey, or governor (even an old ruſty nail), by any of their Indian dependents, is a very dangerous offence, he was careful to conceal the little prize he had made, till he could conveniently carry it away; for in order to make friends of theſe ſavages, we had left their hoard untouched.

Our ſurgeon, Mr. Elliot, being maſter of a few Spaniſh words, made himſelf ſo far underſtood by the cacique as to let him know, that our intention was to reach ſome of the Spaniſh ſettlements, if we could; that we were unacquainted with the beſt and ſafeſt way, and what track was moſt likely to afford us ſubſiſtence in our journey; promiſing, if he would undertake to conduct us in the barge, he ſhould have it, and every thing in it, for his trouble, as ſoon as it had

ſerved

ſerved our preſent occaſions. To theſe conditions the cacique, after much perſuaſion, at length, agreed. Accordingly, having made the beſt preparation we could, we embarked on board the barge to the number of fifteen, including the cacique, whoſe name was Martin, and his ſervant Emanuel. We were, indeed, ſixteen, when we returned from our laſt fruitleſs attempt to get off the iſland; but we had buried two ſince that, who periſhed with hunger; and a marine, having committed theft, run away to avoid the puniſhment his crime deſerved, and hid himſelf in the woods; ſince which he was never heard of. We now put off, accompanied with the two Indian canoes; in one of which was a ſavage, with his two wives, who had an air of dignity ſuperior to the reſt, and was handſome in his perſon. He had his hut, during his ſtay with us, ſeparate from the other Indians, who ſeemed to

pay

pay him extraordinary reſpect; but in two or three nights, theſe Indians, being independent of the Spaniards, and living ſomewhere to the ſouthward of our Chono guide, left us to proceed on our journey by ourſelves.

The firſt night we lay at an iſland deſtitute of all refreſhment; where having found ſome ſhelter for our boat, and made ourſelves a fire, we ſlept by it. The next night we were more unfortunate, though our wants were increaſing; for having run to the weſtward of Montroſs iſland, we found no ſhelter for the barge; but were under the neceſſity of lying upon our oars, ſuffering the moſt extreme pangs of hunger. The next day brought us to the bottom of a great bay, where the Indian guide had left his family, a wife and two children, in a hut. Here we ſtaid two or three days, during which we were conſtantly em-

ployed

ployed in ranging along ſhore in queſt of ſhell-fiſh.

We now again proceeded on our voyage, having received on board the family of our guide, who conducted us to a river, the ſtream of which was ſo rapid, that after our utmoſt efforts from morning to evening, we gained little upon the current; and at laſt were obliged to deſiſt from our attempt, and return. I had hitherto ſteered the boat; but one of our men ſinking under the fatigue, expired ſoon after, which obliged me to take the oar in his room, and row againſt this heart-breaking ſtream. Whilſt I was thus employed, one of our men whoſe name was John Boſman, though hitherto the ſtouteſt man among us, fell from his ſeat under the thwarts, complaining that his ſtrength was quite exhauſted for want of food, and that he ſhould die very ſhortly. As he lay in this condition, he

would

would every now and then break out in the moſt pathetic wiſhes for ſome little ſuſtenance ; that two or three mouthfuls might be the means of ſaving his life. The captain, at this time, had a large piece of boiled ſeal by him, and was the only one that was provided with any thing like a meal ; but we were become ſo hardened againſt the impreſſions of others ſufferings by our own ; ſo familiarized to ſcenes of this, and every other kind of miſery ; that the poor man's dying entreaties were vain. I ſat next to him when he dropped, and having a few dried ſhell-fiſh (about five or ſix) in my pocket, from time to time put one in his mouth, which ſerved only to prolong his pains ; from which, however, ſoon after my little ſupply failed, he was releaſed by death. For this, and another man I mentioned a little before to have expired under the like circumſtances, when we

returned

returned from this unſucceſsful enterprize, we made a grave in the ſands.

It would have redounded greatly to the tenderneſs and humanity of captain Cheap, if at this time he had remitted ſomewhat of that attention he ſhewed to ſelf-preſervation; which is hardly allowable but where the conſequence of relieving others muſt be immediately and manifeſtly fatal to ourſelves; but I would venture to affirm, that in theſe laſt affecting exigencies, as well as ſome others, a ſparing perhaps adequate to the emergency, might have been admitted conſiſtently with a due regard to his own neceſſities. The captain had better opportunities of recruiting his ſtock than any of us; for his rank was conſidered by the Indian as a reaſon for ſupplying him when he would not find a bit for us. Upon the evening of the day in which theſe diſaſters happened, the captain producing

ducing a large piece of boiled ſeal, ſuffered no one to partake with him but the ſurgeon, who was the only man in favour at this time. We did not expect, indeed, any relief from him in our preſent condition; for we had a few ſmall muſcles and herbs to eat; but the men could not help expreſſing the greateſt indignation at his neglect of the deceaſed; ſaying that he deſerved to be deſerted by the reſt for his ſavage behaviour.

The endeavoring to paſs up this river was for us, who had ſo long ſtruggled with hunger, a moſt unſeaſonable attempt; by which we were harraſſed to a degree that threatened to be fatal to more of us; but our guide, without any reſpect to the condition our hardſhips had reduced us to, was very ſollicitous for us to go that way, which poſſibly he had gone before in light canoes; but for ſuch a boat as ours was impracticable. We conceived, therefore, at that time,

that this was ſome ſhort cut, which was to bring us forward in our voyage; but we had reaſon to think afterwards, that the greater probability there was of his getting the barge, which was the wages of his undertaking, ſafe to his ſettlement by this, rather than another courſe, was his motive for preferring it to the way we took afterwards, where there was a carrying place of conſiderable length, over which it would have been impoſſible to have carried our boat.

The country hereabouts wears the moſt uncouth, deſolate, and rugged aſpect imaginable; it is ſo circumſtanced as to diſcourage the moſt ſanguine adventurers from attempts to ſettle it: were it for no other reaſon than the conſtant heavy rains, or rather torrents, which pour down here, and the vaſt ſea and ſurf which the prevailing weſterly winds impel upon this coaſt, it muſt be rendered inhoſpitable. All entrance into the

woods

woods is not only extremely difficult, but hazardous; not from any affaults you are likely to meet with from wild beafts; for even thefe could hardly find convenient harbour here; but from the deep fwamp, which is the reigning foil of this country, and in which the woods may be faid rather to float than grow; fo that, except upon a range of deformed broken rocks which form the fea-coaft, the traveller cannot find found footing any where. With this unpromifing fcene before us we were now fetting out in fearch of food, which nothing but the moft preffing inftances of hunger could induce us to do: we had, indeed, the young Indian fervant to our cacique for our conductor, who was left by him to fhew us where the fhell-fifh was moft plenty. The cacique was gone with the reft of his family, in the canoe, with a view of getting fome feal, upon a trip

which would detain him from us three or four days.

After ſearching the coaſt ſome time with very little ſucceſs, we began to think of returning to the barge; but ſix of the men, with the Indian, having advanced ſome few paces before the officers, got into the boat firſt; which they had no ſooner done than they put off, and left us, to return no more. And now all the difficulties we had hitherto endured, ſeemed light in compariſon of what we expected to ſuffer from this treachery of our men, who, with the boat, had taken away every thing that might be the means of preſerving our lives. The little cloaths we had ſaved from the wreck, our muſkets and ammunition, were gone, except a little powder, which muſt be preſerved for kindling fires, and one gun, which I had, and was now become uſeleſs for want of ammunition; and all theſe wants were now come upon us at

a time

a time when we could not be worſe ſitu-
ated for ſupplying them. Yet under
theſe diſmal and forlorn appearances
was our delivery now preparing; and
from theſe hopeleſs circumſtances were
we to draw hereafter an inſtance ſcarce
to be parallelled, of the unſearchable
ways of Providence. It was at that
time little ſuſpected by us, that the
barge, in which we founded all our
hopes of eſcaping from this ſavage
coaſt, would certainly have proved the
fatal cauſe of detaining us till we were
conſumed by the labour and hardſhips
requiſite to row her round the capes and
great head-lands; for it was impoſſible
to carry her by land, as we did the boats
of the Indians. At preſent, no condi-
tion could be worſe than we thought
ours to be: there ran at this time a very
high ſea, which breaking with great
fury upon this coaſt, made it very impro-
bable that ſuſtenance in any proportion

to our wants could be found upon it; yet, unpromiſing as this proſpect was, and though little ſuccour could be expected from this quarter, I could not help, as I ſtrolled along ſhore from the reſt, caſting my eyes towards the ſea. Continuing thus to look out, I thought I ſaw ſomething now and then upon the top of a ſea that looked black, which upon obſerving ſtill more intently, I imagined at laſt to be a canoe; but reflecting afterwards how unuſual it was for Indians to venture out in ſo mountainous a ſea, and at ſuch a diſtance from the land, I concluded myſelf to be deceived. However, its nearer approach convinced me, beyond all doubt, of its being a canoe; but that it could not put in any where hereabouts, but intended for ſome other part of the coaſt. I ran back as faſt as I could to my companions, and acquainted them with what I had ſeen. The deſpondency they were

in

in would not allow them to give credit to it at firſt; but afterwards, being convinced that it was as I reported it, we were all in the greateſt hurry to ſtrip off ſome of our rags to make a ſignal withal, which we fixed upon a long pole. This had the deſired effect: the people in the canoe ſeeing the ſignal, made towards the land at about two miles diſtance from us; for no boat could approach the land where we were: there they put into a ſmall cove, ſheltered by a large ledge of rocks without, which broke the violence of the ſea. Captain Cheap and I walked along ſhore, and got to the cove about the time they landed. Here we found the perſons arrived in this canoe, to be our Indian guide and his wife, who had left us ſome days before. He would have aſked us many queſtions; but neither captain Cheap nor I underſtanding Spaniſh at that time, we took him along with us to the ſurgeon, whom

we had left ſo ill that he could hardly raiſe himſelf from the ground. When the Indian began to confer with the ſurgeon, the firſt queſtion was, What was become of the barge and his companion? and as he could give him no ſatisfactory anſwer to this queſtion, the Indian took it for granted that Emanuel was murdered by us, and that he and his family ran the ſame riſk; upon which he was preparing to provide for his ſecurity, by leaving us directly. The ſurgeon ſeeing this, did all in his power to pacify him, and convince him of the unreaſonableneſs of his apprehenſions; which he at length found means to do, by aſſuring him that the Indian would come to no harm, but that he would ſoon ſee him return ſafe; which providentially, and beyond our expectation, happened accordingly; for in a few days after, Emanuel having contrived to make his eſcape from the people in the barge, returned by ways

that

that were impaſſable to any creature but an Indian. All that we could learn from Emanuel relative to his eſcape was, that he took the firſt opportunity of leaving them; which was upon their putting into a bay ſomewhere to the weſtward.

We had but one gun among us, and that was a ſmall fowling-piece of mine; no ammunition but a few charges of powder I had about me; and as the Indian was very deſirous of returning to the place where he had left his wife and canoe, Captain Cheap deſired I would go with him and watch over him all night, to prevent his getting away. Accordingly I ſet out with him; and when he and his family betook themſelves to reſt in the little wigwam they had made for that purpoſe, I kept my ſtation as centinel over them all night.

The next morning captain Cheap, Mr. Hamilton, and the ſurgeon, joined us:

the latter, by illneſs, being reduced to the moſt feeble condition, was ſupported by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Campbel. After holding ſome little conſultation together, as to the beſt manner of proceeding in our journey, it was agreed, that the Indian ſhould haul his canoe, with our aſſiſtance, over land, quite acroſs the iſland we were then upon, and put her into a bay on the other ſide, from whence he was to go in queſt of ſome other Indians, by whom he expected to be joined : but as his canoe was too ſmall to carry more than three or four perſons, he thought it adviſeable to take only captain Cheap and myſelf with him, and to leave his wife and children as pledges with our companions till his return.

As it was matter of uncertainty whether we ſhould ever recover the barge or not, which was ſtipulated on our ſide, to become the property of the cacique,

upon

upon his fulfilling his engagements with us; the inducements we now made uſe of to prevail upon him to proceed with us in our journey were, that he ſhould have my fowling-piece, ſome little matters in the poſſeſſion of captain Cheap, and that we would uſe our intereſt to procure him ſome ſmall pecuniary reward.

We were now to ſet off in the canoe, in which I was to aſſiſt him in rowing. Accordingly, putting from this iſland, we rowed hard all this day and the next, without any thing to eat but a ſcrap of ſeal, a very ſmall portion of which fell to my ſhare. About two hours after the cloſe of the day, we put aſhore, where we diſcovered ſix or ſeven wigwams. For my part, my ſtrength was ſo exhauſted with fatigue and hunger, that it would have been impoſſible for me to have held out another day at this toilſome work.

work. As ſoon as we landed, the Indian conducted captain Cheap with him into a wigwam; but I was left to ſhift for myſelf.

Thus left, I was for ſome time at a loſs what I had beſt do; for knowing that in the variety of diſpoſitions obſervable among the Indians, the ſurly and ſavage temper is the moſt prevalent, I had good reaſon to conclude, that if I obtruded myſelf upon them, my reception would be but indifferent. Neceſſity, however, put me upon the riſk; I accordingly puſhed into the next wigwam upon my hands and knees; for the entrance into theſe kind of buildings is too low to admit of any other manner of getting into them. To give a ſhort deſcription of theſe temporary houſes, called wigwams, may not be improper here, for the ſatisfaction of thoſe who never ſaw any; eſpecially as they differ ſomewhat from thoſe of North America, which are

more

more generally known from the numerous accounts of that country.

When the Indians of this part of the world have occaſion to ſtop any where in their rambles, if it be only for a night or two, the men, who take this buſineſs upon them, while the women are employed in much more laborious offices, ſuch as diving in the ſea for ſea-eggs, and ſearching the rocks for ſhell-fiſh, getting fuel, &c. repair to the woods, and cutting a ſufficient number of tall, ſtrait branches, fix them in an irregular kind of circle, of uncertain dimenſions; which having done, they bend the extremities of theſe branches ſo as to meet in a centre at top, where they bind them by a kind of woodbine, called ſupple-jack, which they ſplit by holding it in their teeth. This frame, or ſkeleton of a hut, is made tight againſt the weather with a covering of boughs and bark; but as the bark is not got without ſome

trouble,

trouble, they generally take it with them when they remove, putting it at the bottom of their canoes: the reſt of the wigwam they leave ſtanding. The fire is made in the middle of the wigwam, round which they ſit upon boughs; and as there is no vent for the ſmoke, beſides the door-way, which is very low, except through ſome crevices, which cannot eaſily be ſtopped, they are not a little incommoded on that account; and the eyes of ſome of them are much affected by it.

But to return: in this wigwam, into which I took the liberty to introduce myſelf, I found only two women, who, upon firſt ſeeing a figure they were not accuſtomed to, and ſuch a figure too as I then made, were ſtruck with aſtoniſhment. They were ſitting by a fire, to which I approached without any apology. However inclined I might have been to make one, my ignorance of their

language

language made it impoſſible to attempt it. One of theſe women appeared to be young, and very handſome for an Indian; the other old, and as frightful as it is poſſible to conceive any thing in human ſhape to be. Having ſtared at me ſome little time, they both went out; and I, without farther ceremony, ſat me down by the fire to warm myſelf, and dry the rags I wore. Yet I cannot ſay my ſituation was very eaſy, as I expected every inſtant to ſee two or three men come in and thruſt me out, if they did not deal with me in a rougher manner.

Soon after the two women came in again, having, as I ſuppoſed, conferred with the Indian, our conductor; and appearing to be in great good humour, began to chatter and laugh immoderately. Perceiving the wet and cold condition I was in, they ſeemed to have compaſſion on me, and the old woman went

out

out and brought ſome wood, with which ſhe made a good fire; but my hunger being impatient, I could not forbear expreſſing my deſire that they would extend their hoſpitality a little further, and bring me ſomething to eat. They ſoon comprehended my meaning, and the younger beginning to rummage under ſome pieces of bark that lay in the corner of the wigwam, produced a fine large fiſh: this they preſently put upon the fire to broil; and when it was juſt warm through, they made a ſign for me to eat. They had no need to repeat the invitation; I fell to, and diſpatched it in ſo ſhort a time, that I was in hopes they would comprehend, without further tokens, that I was ready for another; but it was of no conſequence, for their ſtock of eatables was entirely exhauſted.

After ſitting ſome time in conference together, in which converſation I could

bear

bear no part, the women made ſome ſigns to me to lay down and go to ſleep, firſt having ſtrewed ſome dry boughs upon the ground. I laid myſelf down, and ſoon fell faſt aſleep; and about three or four hours after awaking, I found myſelf covered with a bit of blanket, made of the down of birds, which the women uſually wear about their waiſt. The young woman, who had carefully covered me, whilſt ſleeping, with her own blanket, was lying cloſe by me: the old woman lay on the other ſide of her. The fire was low, and almoſt burnt out; but as ſoon as they found me awake they renewed it, by putting on more fuel. What I had hitherto eat ſerved only to ſharpen my appetite; I could not help, therefore, being earneſt with them to get me ſome more victuals. Having underſtood my neceſſities, they talked together ſome little time; after which getting up, they both

went

went out, taking with them a couple of dogs, which they train to aſſiſt them in fiſhing. After an hour's abſence, they came in trembling with cold, and their hair ſtreaming with water, and brought two fiſh; which having broiled, they gave me the largeſt ſhare; and then we all laid down as before to reſt.

In the morning, my curioſity led me to viſit the neighbouring wigwams, in which were only one or two men; the reſt of the inhabitants were all women and children. I then proceeded to enquire after captain Cheap and our Indian guide, whom I found in the wigwam they at firſt occupied: the authority of the cacique had procured the captain no deſpicable entertainment. We could not learn what buſineſs the men, whoſe wives and children were here left behind, were gone out upon; but as they ſeldom or never go upon fiſhing-parties (for they have no hunting here) without

their wives, who take the moſt laborious part of this purſuit upon themſelves, it is probable they were gone upon ſome warlike expedition, in which they uſe bows and arrows ſometimes, but always the lance. This weapon they throw with great dexterity and force, and never ſtir abroad without it. About this time their return was looked for; a hearing by no means pleaſant to me; I was, therefore, determined to enjoy myſelf as long as they were abſent, and make the moſt of the good fare I was poſſeſſed of; to the pleaſure of which I thought a little cleanlineſs might in ſome meaſure contribute; I therefore went to a brook, and taking off my ſhirt, which might be ſaid to be alive with vermin, ſet myſelf about to waſh it; which having done as well as I could, and hung on a buſh to dry, I heard a buſtle about the wigwams; and ſoon perceived that the women were prepar-

ing to depart, having ſtripped their wigwams of their bark covering, and carried it into their canoes. Putting on, therefore, my ſhirt juſt as it was, I haſtened to join them, having a great deſire of being preſent at one of their fiſhing parties.

It was my lot to be put into the canoe with my two patroneſſes, and ſome others who aſſiſted in rowing: we were in all four canoes. After rowing ſome time, they gained ſuch an offing as they required, where the water here was about eight or ten fathom deep, and there lay upon their oars. And now the youngeſt of the two women, taking a baſket in her mouth, jumped overboard, and diving to the bottom, continued under water an amazing time: when ſhe had filled the baſket with ſea-eggs, ſhe came up to the boat-ſide; and delivering it ſo filled to the other women in the boat, they took out the contents, and returned

it

it to her. The diver then, after having taken a ſhort time to breathe, went down and up again with the ſame ſucceſs; and ſo ſeveral times for the ſpace of half an hour. It ſeems as if Providence had endued this people with a kind of amphibious nature, as the ſea is the only ſource from whence almoſt all their ſubſiſtence is derived. This element too, being here very boiſterous, and falling with a moſt heavy ſurf upon a rugged coaſt, very little, except ſome ſeal, is to be got any where but in the quiet boſom of the deep. What occaſions this reflexion is the early propenſity I had ſo frequently obſerved in the children of theſe ſavages to this occupation; who, even at the age of three years, might be ſeen crawling upon their hands and knees among the rocks and breakers; from which they would tumble themſelves into the ſea without regard to the cold, which is here often intenſe; and

ſhewing no fear of the noiſe and roaring of the ſurf.

This ſea-egg is a ſhell-fiſh, from which ſeveral prickles project in all directions, by means whereof it removes itſelf from place to place. In it are found four or five yolks, reſembling the inner diviſions of an orange, which are of a very nutritive quality, and excellent flavour.

The water was at this time extremely cold; and when the divers got into the boats, they ſeemed greatly benumbed; and it is uſual with them after this exerciſe, if they are near enough their wigwams, to run to the fire; to which preſenting one ſide, they rub and chafe it for ſome time; then turning the other, uſe it in the ſame manner, till the circulation of the blood is reſtored. This practice, if it has no worſe effect, muſt occaſion their being more ſuſceptible of the impreſſions of cold, than if they

waited

waited the gradual advances of their natural warmth in the open air. I leave it to the decifion of the gentlemen of the faculty, whether this too haſty approach to the fire may not ſubject them to a diſorder I obſerved among them, called the elephantiaſis, or ſwelling of the legs *.

The divers having returned to their boats, we continued to row till towards evening, when we landed upon a low point. As ſoon as the canoes were hauled up, they employed themſelves in

* There are two very different diſorders incident to the human body, which bear the ſame name, derived from ſome reſemblance they hold with different parts of the animal ſo well known in the countries to which theſe diſorders are peculiar. That which was firſt ſo named is the leproſy, which brings a ſcurf on the ſkin not unlike the hide of an elephant. The other affects the patient with ſuch enormous ſwellings of the legs and feet, that they give the idea of thoſe ſhapeleſs pillars which ſupport that creature; and therefore this diſeaſe has alſo been called elephantiaſis by the Arabian phyſicians; who, together with the Malabarians, among whom it is endemial, attribute it to the drinking bad waters, and the too ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold.

erecting their wigwams, which they diſpatch with great addreſs and quickneſs. I ſtill enjoyed the protection of my two good Indian women, who made me their gueſt here as before; they firſt regaled me with ſea-eggs, and then went out upon another kind of fiſhery by the means of dogs and nets. Theſe dogs are a cur-like looking animal; but very ſagacious, and eaſily trained to this buſineſs. Though in appearance an uncomfortable ſort of ſport; yet they engage in it readily, ſeem to enjoy it much, and expreſs their cagerneſs by barking every time they raiſe their heads above the water to breathe. The net is held by two Indians, who get into the water; then the dogs, taking a large compaſs, dive after the fiſh, and drive them into the net; but it is only in particular places that the fiſh are taken in this manner. At the cloſe of the evening, the women brought

brought in two fiſh, which ſerved us for ſupper; and then we repoſed ourſelves as before. Here we remained all the next day; and the morning after embarked again, and rowed till noon; then landing, we deſcried the canoes of the Indian men, who had been ſome time expected from an expedition they had been upon. This was ſoon to make a great alteration in the ſituation of my affairs, a preſage of which I could read in the melancholy countenance of my young hoſteſs. She endeavoured to expreſs herſelf in very earneſt terms to me; but I had not yet acquired a competent knowledge of the Indian language to underſtand her.

As ſoon as the men were landed, ſhe and the old Indian woman went up, not without ſome marks of dread upon them, to an elderly Indian man, whoſe remarkable ſurly and ſtern countenance was well calculated to raiſe ſuch ſenſa-

tions in his dependents. He ſeemed to be a cacique, or chief man among them, by the airs of importance he aſſumed to himſelf, and the deference paid him by the reſt. After ſome little conference paſſed between theſe Indians, and our cacique conductor, of which, moſt probably, the circumſtances of our hiſtory, and the occaſion of our coming here, might be the chief ſubject; for they fixed their eyes conſtantly upon us, they applied themſelves to building their wigwams. I now underſtood that the two Indian women with whom I had ſojourned, were wives to this chieftain, though one was young enough to be his daughter; and as far as I could learn, did really ſtand in the different relations to him both of daughter and wife. It was eaſy to be perceived that all did not go well between them at this time; either that he was not ſatisfied with the anſwers that they returned him to his queſtions,

queſtions, or that he ſuſpected ſome miſ-conduct on their ſide; for preſently after, breaking out into ſavage fury, he took the young one up in his arms, and threw her with violence againſt the ſtones; but his brutal reſentment did not ſtop here, he beat her afterwards in a cruel manner. I could not ſee this treatment of my benefactreſs without the higheſt concern for her, and rage againſt the author of it; eſpecially as the natural jealouſy of theſe people gave occaſion to think that it was on my account ſhe ſuffered. I could hardly ſuppreſs the firſt emotions of my reſentment, which prompted me to return him his barbarity in his own kind; but beſides that this might have drawn upon her freſh marks of his ſeverity, it was neither politic, nor indeed in my power, to have done it to any good purpoſe at this time.

Our

Our cacique now made us underſtand that we muſt embark directly, in the ſame canoe which brought us, and return to our companions; and that the Indians we were about to leave, would join us in a few days, when we ſhould all ſet out in a body, in order to proceed to the northward. In our way back, nothing very material happened; but upon our arrival, which was the next day, we found Mr. Elliot, the ſurgeon, in a very bad way; his illneſs had been continually increaſing ſince we left him. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Campbell were almoſt ſtarved, having fared very ill ſince we left them: a few ſea-eggs were all the ſubſiſtence they had lived upon; and theſe procured by the cacique's wife, in the manner I mentioned before. This woman was the very reverſe of my hoſteſs; and as ſhe found her huſband was of ſo much conſequence to us, took

upon

upon her with much haughtineſs, and treated us as dependents and ſlaves. He was not more engaging in his carriage towards us; he would give no part of what he had to ſpare to any but captain Cheap, whom his intereſt led him to prefer to the reſt, though our wants were often greater. The captain, on his part, contributed to keep us in this abject ſituation, by approving this diſtinction the cacique ſhewed to him. Had he treated us with not quite ſo much diſtance, the cacique might have been more regardful of our wants. The little regard and attention which our neceſſitous condition drew from captain Cheap, may be imputed likewiſe, in ſome meaſure, to the effects of a mind ſoured by a ſeries of croſſes and diſappointments; which, indeed, had operated on us all to a great neglect of each other, and ſometimes of ourſelves.

We

We were not ſuffered to be in the ſame wigwam with the cacique and his wife; which, if we had had any countenance from captain Cheap, would not have been refuſed. What we had made for ourſelves was in ſuch a bungling manner, that it ſcarce deſerved the name even of this wretched ſort of habitation. But our untoward circumſtances now found ſome relief in the arrival of the Indians we waited for; who brought with them ſome ſeal, a ſmall portion of which fell to our ſhare. A night or two after they ſent out ſome of their young men, who procured us a quantity of a very delicate kind of birds, called ſhags and cormorants. Their manner of taking theſe birds reſembles ſomething a ſport called bat-fowling. They find out their haunts among the rocks and cliffs in the night, when taking with them torches made of the

bark

bark of the birch tree, which is common here, and grows to a very large ſize (this bark has a very unctuous quality, and emits a bright and clear light; and in the northern parts of America is uſed frequently inſtead of a candle) they bring the boat's ſide as near as poſſible to the rocks, under the roofting-places of theſe birds; then waving their lights backwards and forwards, the birds are dazzled and confounded ſo as to fall into the canoe, where they are inſtantly knocked on the head with a ſhort ſtick the Indians take with them for that purpoſe.

Seal are taken in ſome leſs frequented parts of theſe coaſts, with great eaſe; but when their haunts have been two or three times diſturbed, they ſoon learn to provide for their ſafety, by repairing to the water upon the firſt alarm. This is the caſe with them hereabouts; but as they frequently raiſe their heads above

water, either to breathe or look about them, I have ſeen an Indian at this interval, throw his lance with ſuch dexterity as to ſtrike the animal through both its eyes, at a great diſtance; and it is very ſeldom that they miſs their aim.

As we were wholly unacquainted with theſe methods of providing food for ourſelves, and were without arms and ammunition, we were drove to the utmoſt ſtraits; and found ourſelves rather in worſe condition than we had been at any time before. For the Indians, having now nothing to fear from us, we found we had nothing to expect from them upon any other motive. Accordingly, if they ever did relieve us, it was through caprice; for at moſt times they would ſhew themſelves unconcerned at our greateſt diſtreſſes. But the good Indian women, whoſe friendſhip I had experienced before, continued, from time to time, their good offices to me.

Though

Though I was not ſuffered to enter their wigwams, they would find opportunities of throwing in my way ſuch ſcraps as they could ſecrete from their huſbands. The obligation I was under to them on this account is great, as the hazard they ran in conferring theſe favours was little leſs than death. The men, unreſtrained by any laws or ties of conſcience, in the management of their own families, exerciſe a moſt deſpotic authority over their wives, whom they conſider in the ſame view they do any other part of their property, and diſpoſe of them accordingly: even their common treatment of them is cruel; for though the toil and hazard of procuring food lies entirely upon the women, yet they are not ſuffered to touch any part of it till the huſband is ſatisfied; and then he aſſigns them their portion, which is generally very ſcanty, and ſuch as he has not a ſtomach for himſelf.

This arbitrary proceeding, with reſpect to their own families, is not peculiar to this people only. I have had occaſion to obſerve it in more inſtances than this I have mentioned, among many other nations of ſavages I have ſince ſeen.

Theſe Indians are of a middling ſtature, well ſet, and very active; and make their way among the rocks with an amazing agility. Their feet, by this kind of exerciſe, contract a calloſity which renders the uſe of ſhoes quite unneceſſary to them. But before I conclude the few obſervations I have to make on a people ſo confined in all their notions and practice, it may be expected I ſhould ſay ſomething of their religion; but as their groſs ignorance is in nothing more conſpicuous, and as we found it adviſeable to keep out of their way when the fits of devotion came upon them, which is rather frantic than religious, the reader can expect very little ſatisfaction

on

on this head. Accident has ſometimes made me unavoidably a ſpectator of ſcenes I ſhould have choſen to have withdrawn myſelf from; and ſo far I am inſtructed. As there are no fixed ſeaſons for their religious exerciſes, the younger people wait till the elders find themſelves devoutly diſpoſed; who begin the ceremony by ſeveral deep and diſmal groans, which riſe gradually to a hideous kind of ſinging, from which they proceed to enthuſiaſm, and work themſelves into a diſpoſition that borders on madneſs; for ſuddenly jumping up, they ſnatch firebrands from the fire, put them in their mouths, and run about burning every body they come near: at other times, it is a cuſtom with them to wound one another with ſharp muſcle-ſhells till they are beſmeared with blood. Theſe orgies continue till thoſe who preſide in them foam at the mouth, grow faint, are exhauſted with fatigue, and diſſolve in a

profuſion of ſweat. When the men drop their part in this frenzy, the women take it up, acting over again much the ſame kind of wild ſcene, except that they rather outdo the men in ſhrieks and noiſe. Our cacique, who had been reclaimed from theſe abominations by the Spaniards, and juſt knew the exterior form of croſſing himſelf, pretended to be much offended at theſe profane ceremonies, and that he would have died ſooner than have partaken of them. Among other expreſſions of his diſapprobation, he declared, that whilſt the ſavages ſolemnized theſe horrid rites, he never failed to hear ſtrange and uncommon noiſes in the woods, and to ſee frightful viſions; and aſſured us, that the devil was the chief actor among them upon theſe occaſions.

It might be about the middle of March, that we embarked with theſe Indians. They ſeparated our little company intirely, not putting any two of us

together

together in the ſame canoe. The oar was my lot, as uſual, as alſo Mr. Campbell's; Mr. Hamilton could not row, and captain Cheap was out of the queſtion; our ſurgeon was more dead than alive at the time, and lay at the bottom of the canoe he was in. The weather coming on too bad for their canoes to keep the ſea, we landed again, without making great progreſs that day. Here Mr. Elliot, our ſurgeon, died. At our firſt ſetting out, he promiſed the faireſt for holding out, being a very ſtrong, active young man: he had gone through an infinite deal of fatigue, as Mr. Hamilton and he were the beſt ſhots amongſt us, and whilſt our ammunition laſted never ſpared themſelves, and in a great meaſure provided for the reſt; but he died the death many others had done before him, being quite ſtarved. We ſcraped a hole for him in the ſand, and buried him in the beſt manner we could.

Here I muſt relate a little anecdote of our chriſtian cacique. He and his wife had gone off, at ſome diſtance from the ſhore, in their canoe, when ſhe dived for ſea-eggs; but not meeting with great ſucceſs, they returned a good deal out of humour. A little boy of theirs, about three years old, whom they appeared to be doatingly fond of, watching for his father and mother's return, ran into the ſurf to meet them: the father handed a baſket of ſea-eggs to the child, which being too heavy for him to carry, he let it fall; upon which the father jumped out of the canoe, and catching the boy up in his arms, daſhed him with the utmoſt violence againſt the ſtones. The poor little creature lay motionleſs and bleeding, and in that condition was taken up by the mother; but died ſoon after. She appeared inconſolable for ſome time; but the brute

his

his father ſhewed little concern about it. A day or two after we put to ſea again, and croſſed the great bay I mentioned we had been to the bottom of, when we firſt hauled away to the weſtward. The land here was very low and ſandy, with ſomething like the mouth of a river which diſcharged itſelf into the ſea; and which had been taken no notice of by us before, as it was ſo ſhallow that the Indians were obliged to take every thing out of their canoes, and carry it over the neck of land, and then haul the boats over into a river, which at this part of it was very broad, more reſembling a lake than a river. We rowed up it for four or five leagues, and then took into a branch of it, that ran firſt to the eaſtward, and then to the northward: here it became much narrower, and the ſtream exceſſively rapid, ſo that we made but little way, though we worked very hard. At night we landed upon its

banks, and had a moſt uncomfortable lodging, it being a perfect ſwamp ; and we had nothing to cover us, though it rained very hard. The Indians were little better off than we, as there was no wood here to make their wigwams ; ſo that all they could do was to prop up the bark they carry in the bottom of their canoes with their oars, and ſhelter themſelves as well as they could to leeward of it. They, knowing the difficulties that were to be encountered here, had provided themſelves with ſome ſeal ; but we had not the leaſt morſel to eat, after the heavy fatigues of the day, excepting a ſort of root we ſaw ſome of the Indians make uſe of, which was very diſagreeable to the taſte. We laboured all the next day againſt the ſtream, and fared as we had done the day before. The next day brought us to the carrying-place. Here was plenty of wood ; but nothing to be got for ſuſtenance.

nance. The firſt thing the Indians did was to take every thing out of their canoes; and after hauling them aſhore, they made their wigwams. We paſſed this night, as generally we had done, under a tree; but what we ſuffered at this time is not eaſily to be expreſſed. I had been three days at the oar without any kind of nouriſhment, but the wretched root I mentioned before. I had no ſhirt, as mine was rotted off by bits; and we were devoured by vermin. All my cloaths conſiſted of an old ſhort grieko, which is ſomething like a bearſkin, with a piece of a waiſtcoat under it, which once had been of red cloth, both which I had on when I was caſt away; I had a ragged pair of trowſers, without either ſhoe or ſtocking. The firſt thing the Indians did in the morning was to take their canoes to pieces: and here, for the information of the reader, it will be neceſſary to deſcribe the ſtructure of

theſe boats, which are extremely well calculated for the uſe of theſe Indians, as they are frequently obliged to carry them over land a long way together, through thick woods, to avoid doubling capes and headlands, in ſeas where no open boat could live. They generally conſiſt of five pieces, or planks; one for the bottom, and two for each ſide; and as theſe people have no iron tools, the labour muſt be great in hacking a ſingle plank out of a large tree with ſhells and flints, though with the help of fire. Along the edges of the plank, they make ſmall holes, at about an inch from one to the other, and ſew them together with the ſupple-jack, or woodbine; but as theſe holes are not filled up by the ſubſtance of the woodbine, their boats would be immediately full of water if they had not a method of preventing it. They do this very effectually by the bark of a tree, which they firſt ſteep in water

for

for ſome time, and then beat it between two ſtones till it anſwers the uſe of oakum, and then chinſe each hole ſo well, that they do not admit of the leaſt water coming through, and are eaſily taken aſunder and put together again. When they have occaſion to go over land, as at this time, each man or woman carries a plank; whereas it would be impoſſible for them to drag a heavy boat intire. Every body had ſomething to carry except captain Cheap; and he was obliged to be aſſiſted, or never would have got over this march; for a worſe than this, I believe, never was made. He, with the others, ſet out ſome time before me. I waited for two Indians, who belonged to the canoe I came in; and who remained to carry over the laſt of the things from the ſide we were on. I had a piece of wet heavy canvas, which belonged to captain Cheap, with a bit of ſtinking ſeal wrapped in it (which had been given

him

him that morning by ſome of the Indians) to carry upon my head, which was a ſufficient weight for a ſtrong man in health, through ſuch roads, and a grievous burthen to one in my condition. Our way was through a thick wood, the bottom of which was a mere quagmire, moſt part of it up to our knees, and often to our middle, and every now and then we had a large tree to get over; for they often lay directly in our road. Beſides this, we were continually treading upon the ſtumps of trees, which were not to be avoided, as they were covered with water; and having neither ſhoe nor ſtocking, my feet and legs were frequently torn and wounded. Before I had got half a mile, the two Indians had left me; and making the beſt of my way, leſt they ſhould be all gone before I got to the other ſide, I fell off a tree that croſſed the road, into a very deep ſwamp, where I very narrowly eſcaped drowning,

drowning, by the weight of the burthen I had on my head. It was a long while before I could extricate myſelf from this difficulty ; and when I did, my ſtrength was quite exhauſted. I ſat down under a tree, and there gave way to melancholy reflexions. However, as I was ſenſible theſe reflexions would anſwer no end, they did not laſt long. I got up, and marking a great tree, I then depoſited my load, not being able to carry it any farther, and ſet out to join my company. It was ſome hours before I reached my companions. I found them ſitting under a tree, and ſat myſelf down by them without ſpeaking a word; nor did they ſpeak to me, as I remember, for ſome time ; when captain Cheap breaking ſilence, began to aſk after the ſeal and piece of canvas. I told him the diſaſter I had met with, which he might have eaſily gueſſed by the condition the rags I had on were in, as well as having my

feet and ancles cut to pieces; but inſtead of compaſſion for my ſufferings, I heard nothing but grumbling from every one, for the irreparable loſs they had ſuſtained by me. I made no anſwer; but after reſting myſelf a little, I got up and ſtruck into the wood, and walked back at leaſt five miles to the tree I had marked, and returned juſt time enough to deliver it before my companions embarked, with the Indians, upon a great lake, the oppoſite part of which ſeemed to waſh the foot of the Cordilleras. I wanted to embark with them; but was given to underſtand I was to wait for ſome other Indians that were to follow them. I knew not where theſe Indians were to come from: I was left alone upon the beach, and night was at hand. They left me not even a morſel of the ſtinking ſeal that I had ſuffered ſo much about. I kept my eyes upon the boats as long as I could diſtinguiſh them; and

then

then returned into the wood, and ſat myſelf down upon the root of a tree, having eat nothing the whole day but the ſtem of a plant which reſembles that of an artichoke, which is of a juicy conſiſtence, and acid taſte. Quite worn out with fatigue, I ſoon fell aſleep; and awaking before day, I thought I heard ſome voices at no great diſtance from me. As the day appeared, looking further into the wood, I perceived a wigwam, and immediately made towards it; but the reception I met with was not at all agreeable; for ſtooping to get into it, I preſently received two or three kicks in my face, and at the ſame time heard the ſound of voices ſeemingly in anger; which made me retire, and wait at the foot of a tree, where I remained till an old woman peeped out, and made ſigns to me to draw near. I obeyed very readily, and went into the wigwam: in it were three men and two women; one

young

young man ſeemed to have great reſpect ſhewn to him by the reſt, though he was the moſt miſerable object I ever ſaw. He was a perfect ſkeleton, and covered with ſores from head to foot. I was happy to ſit a moment by their fire, as I was quite benumbed with cold. The old woman took out a piece of ſeal, holding one part of it between her feet, and the other end in her teeth, and then cut off ſome thin ſlices with a ſharp ſhell, and diſtributed them about to the other Indians. She then put a bit on the fire, taking a piece of fat in her mouth, which ſhe kept chewing, every now and then ſpirting ſome of it on the piece that was warming upon the fire; for they never do more with it than warm it through. When it was ready, ſhe gave me a little bit, which I ſwallowed whole, being almoſt ſtarved. As theſe Indians were all ſtrangers to me, I did not know which way they were going; and indeed it was

now

now become quite indifferent to me which way I went, whether to the northward or ſouthward, ſo that they would but take me with them, and give me ſomething to eat. However, to make them comprehend me, I pointed firſt to the ſouthward, and after to the lake, and I ſoon underſtood they were going to the northward. They all went out together, excepting the ſick Indian, and took up the plank of the canoe, which lay near the wigwam, and carried it upon the beach, and preſently put it together; and getting every thing into it, they put me to the oar. We rowed acroſs the lake to the mouth of a very rapid river, where we put aſhore for that night, not daring to get any way down in the dark; as it required the greateſt ſkill, even in the day, to avoid running foul of the ſtumps and roots of trees, of which this river was full. I paſſed a melancholy night, as they would not ſuffer me to come

near the wigwam they had made; nor did they give me the leaſt bit of any one thing to eat ſince we embarked. In the morning we ſet off again. The weather proved extremely bad the whole day. We went down the river at an amazing rate; and juſt before night they put aſhore upon a ſtony beach. They hauled the canoe up, and all diſappeared in a moment, and I was left quite alone: it rained violently, and was very dark. I thought it was as well to lay down upon the beach, half ſide in water, as to get into a ſwamp under a dropping tree. In this diſmal ſituation I fell aſleep, and awaked three or four hours after in ſuch agonies with the cramp, that I thought I muſt die upon the ſpot. I attempted ſeveral times to raiſe myſelf upon my legs, but could not. At laſt I made ſhift to get upon my knees, and looking towards the wood I ſaw a great fire at ſome diſtance from me. I was a long time

crawling to it; and when I reached it, I threw myſelf almoſt into it, in hopes of finding ſome relief from the pain I ſuffered. This intruſion gave great offence to the Indians, who immediately got up, kicking and beating me till they drove me to ſome diſtance from it; however, I contrived, a little after, to place myſelf ſo as to receive ſome warmth from it; by which I got rid of the cramp. In the morning we left this place, and were ſoon after out of the river. Being now at ſea again, the Indians intended putting aſhore at the firſt convenient place, to look for ſhell-fiſh, their ſtock of proviſions having been quite exhauſted for ſome time. At low water we landed upon a ſpot that ſeemed to promiſe well; and here we found plenty of limpets. Though at this time ſtarving, I did not attempt to eat one, leſt I ſhould loſe a moment in gathering them; not knowing how ſoon the Indians might be going again. I had

almoſt filled my hat when I ſaw them returning to the canoe. I made what haſte I could to her; for I believe they would have made no conſcience of leaving me behind. I ſat down to my oar again, placing my hat cloſe to me, every now and then eating a limpet. The Indians were employed the ſame way, when one of them ſeeing me throw the ſhells overboard, ſpoke to the reſt in a violent paſſion; and getting up, fell upon me, and ſeizing me by an old ragged handkerchief I had about my neck, almoſt throttled me; whilſt another took me by the legs, and was going to throw me overboard, if the old woman had not prevented them. I was all this time intirely ignorant by what means I had given offence, till I obſerved that the Indians, after eating the limpets, carefully put the ſhells in a heap at the bottom of the canoe. I then concluded there was ſome ſuperſtition about throwing

theſe ſhells into the ſea, my ignorance of which had very nearly coſt me my life. I was reſolved to eat no more limpets till we landed, which we did ſome time after, upon an iſland. I then took notice that the Indians brought all their ſhells aſhore, and laid them above high water mark. Here, as I was going to eat a large bunch of berries I had gathered from a tree, for they looked very tempting, one of the Indians ſnatched them out of my hand and threw them away, making me to underſtand that they were poiſonous. Thus, in all probability, did theſe people now ſave my life, who, a few hours before, were going to take it from me for throwing away a ſhell.

In two days after, I joined my companions again; but don't remember that there was the leaſt joy ſhewn on either ſide at meeting. At this place was a very large canoe belonging to our guide, which would have required at

leaſt ſix men to the oar to have made any kind of expedition: inſtead of that, there was only Campbel and myſelf, beſides the Indian, his companion, or ſervant, to row, the cacique himſelf never touching an oar, but ſitting with his wife all the time much at his eaſe. Mr. Hamilton continued in the ſame canoe he had been in all along, and which ſtill was to keep us company ſome way further, though many of the others had left us. This was dreadful hard work to ſuch poor ſtarved wretches as we were, to be ſlaving at the oar all day long in ſuch a heavy boat; and this inhuman fellow would never give us a ſcrap to eat, excepting when he took ſo much ſeal that he could not contrive to carry it all away with him, which happened very ſeldom. After working like galley-ſlaves all day, towards night, when we landed, inſtead of taking any reſt, Mr. Campbell and I were ſometimes obliged to go miles

along ſhore to get a few ſhell-fiſh; and juſt as we have made a little fire in order to dreſs them, he has commanded us into the boat again, and kept us rowing the whole night without ever landing. It is impoſſible for me to deſcribe the miſerable ſtate we were reduced to: our bodies were ſo emaciated, that we hardly appeared the figures of men. It has often happened to me in the coldeſt night, both in hail and ſnow, where we had nothing but an open beach to lay down upon, in order to procure a little reſt, that I have been obliged to pull off the few rags I had on, as it was impoſſible to get a moment's ſleep with them on for the vermin that ſwarmed about them; though I uſed, as often as I had time, to take my clothes off, and putting them upon a large ſtone, beat them with another, in hopes of killing hundreds at once; for it was endleſs work to pick them off. What we ſuffered from this,

was ten times worſe even than hunger. But we were clean in compariſon to captain Cheap; for I could compare his body to nothing but an ant-hill, with thouſands of thoſe inſects crawling over it; for he was now paſt attempting to rid himſelf in the leaſt from this torment, as he had quite loſt himſelf, not recollecting our names that were about him, or even his own. His beard was as long as a hermit's: that and his face being covered with train-oil and dirt, from having long accuſtomed himſelf to ſleep upon a bag, by the way of pillow, in which he kept the pieces of ſtinking ſeal. This prudent method he took to prevent our getting at it whilſt he ſlept. His legs were as big as mill-poſts, though his body appeared to be nothing but ſkin and bone.

One day we fell in with about forty Indians, who came down to the beach we landed on, curiouſly painted. Our ca-

cique

cique ſeemed to underſtand but little of their language, and it ſounded to us very different from what we had heard before. However, they made us comprehend that a ſhip had been upon the coaſt not far from where we then were, and that ſhe had a red flag: this we underſtood ſome time after to have been the Anne pink, whoſe adventures are particularly related in Lord Anſon's Voyage; and we paſſed through the very harbour ſhe had lain in.

As there was but one ſmall canoe that intended to accompany us any longer; and that in which Mr. Hamilton had been to this time, intended to proceed no further to the northward; our cacique propoſed to him to come into our canoe, which he refuſed, as the inſolence of this fellow was to him inſupportable; he therefore rather choſe to remain where he was, till chance ſhould throw in his way ſome other means of getting for-

ward: ſo here we left him; and it was ſome months before we ſaw him again.

We now got on, by very ſlow degrees, to the northward; and as the difficulties and hardſhips we daily went through would only be a repetition of thoſe already mentioned, I ſhall ſay no more, but that at laſt we reached an iſland about thirty leagues to the ſouthward of Chiloe. Here we remained two days for a favourable opportunity to croſs the bay, the very thoughts of which ſeemed to frighten our cacique out of his ſenſes; and indeed, there was great reaſon for his apprehenſions; for there ran a moſt dreadful hollow ſea, dangerous, indeed, for any open boat whatever, but a thouſand times more for ſuch a crazy veſſel as we were in. He at length muſtered up reſolution enough to attempt it, firſt having croſſed himſelf for an hour together, and made a kind of lug-ſail out of the bits of blankets they wore about them, ſewed together

together with ſplit ſupple jacks. We then put off, and a terrible paſſage we had. The bottom plank of the canoe was ſplit, which opened upon every ſea; and the water continually ruſhing over the gunnel, I may ſay that we were in a manner full the whole way over, though all hands were employed in baling without ceaſing a moment. As we drew near the ſhore, the cacique was eager to land, having been terrified to that degree with this run, that if it had not been for us, every ſoul muſt have periſhed; for he had very near got in amongſt the breakers, where the ſea drove with ſuch violence upon the rocks, that not even an Indian could have eſcaped, eſpecially as it was in the night. We kept off till we got into ſmooth water, and landed upon the iſland of Chiloe; though in a part of it that was not inhabited. Here we ſtaid all the next day, in a very heavy ſnow, to recover ourſelves

a little

a little after our fatigue; but the cold was ſo exceſſive, having neither ſhoe nor ſtocking, we thought we ſhould have loſt our feet; and captain Cheap was ſo ill, that if he had had but a few leagues further to have gone without relief, he could not have held out. It pleaſed God now that our ſufferings, in a great meaſure, were drawing to an end.

What things our cacique had brought with him from the wreck, he here buried under ground, in order to conceal them from the Spaniards, who would not have left him a ruſty nail if they had known of it. Towards evening, we ſet off again; and about nine the ſame night, to our great joy, we obſerved ſomething that had the appearance of a houſe. It belonged to an acquaintance of our cacique; and as he was poſſeſſed of my fowling-piece, and we had preſerved about one charge of powder, he made us load it for him, and deſired we

would

would ſhew him how to diſcharge it; upon which, ſtanding up, and holding his head from it as far as poſſible, he fired, and fell back into the bottom of the canoe. The Indians belonging to the houſe, not in the leaſt uſed to fire-arms, ran out and hid themſelves in the woods. But after ſome time, one of them, bolder than the reſt, got upon a hill, and hollowed to us, aſking who and what we were. Our cacique now made himſelf known, and they preſently came down to the boat, bringing with them ſome fiſh, and plenty of potatoes. This was the moſt comfortable meal we had made for many long months; and as ſoon as this was over we rowed about two miles farther to a little village, where we landed. Here our cacique preſently awaked all the inhabitants by the noiſe he made, and obliged one of them to open his door to us, and immediately to make a large fire; for

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the weather was very fevere, this being the month of June, the depth of winter in this part of the world. The Indians now flocked thick about us, and ſeemed to have great compaſſion for us, as our cacique related to them what part he knew of our hiſtory. They knew not what countrymen we were, nor could our guide inform them; for he had often aſked us if we were French, Dutch, or Engliſh, the only nations he had ever heard of beſides the Spaniards. We always anſwered we were from Grande Bretagne, which he could make nothing of; for we were afraid, if he knew us to be Engliſh, as he had heard that nation was at war with the Spaniards, he never would have conducted us to Chiloe.

Theſe good-natured compaſſionate creatures ſeemed to vie with each other who ſhould take the moſt care of us. They made a bed of ſheep-ſkins cloſe to the fire, for captain Cheap, and laid him upon

upon it ; and indeed, had it not been for the kind affiftance he now met with, he could not have furvived three days longer. Though it was now about midnight, they went out and killed a fheep, of which they made broth, and baked a large cake of barley-meal. Any body may imagine what a treat this was to wretches who had not tafted a bit of bread, or any wholefome diet, for fuch a length of time. After we could eat no longer, we went to fleep about the fire, which the Indians took care to keep up. In the morning, the women came from far and near, each bringing with her fomething. Almoft every one had a pipkin in her hand, containing either fowls or mutton made into broth, potatoes, eggs, or other eatables. We fell to work as if we had eat nothing in the night, and employed ourfelves fo for the beft part of the day. In the evening, the men filled our houfe, bringing with

them

them ſome jars of a liquor they called chicha, made of barley-meal, and not very unlike our oat-ale in taſte, which will intoxicate thoſe who drink a ſufficient quantity of it; for a little has no effect. As ſoon as the drink was out, a freſh ſupply of victuals was brought in; and in this manner we paſſed the whole time we remained with theſe hoſpitable Indians. They are a ſtrong well made people, extremely well featured, both men and women, and vaſtly neat in their perſons. The mens dreſs is called by them a puncho, which is a ſquare piece of cloth, generally in ſtripes of different colours, with a ſlit in the middle of it wide enough to let their heads through, ſo that it hangs on their ſhoulders, half of it falling before, and the other behind them: under this they wear a ſhort kind of flannel ſhirt without ſleeves or neck. They have wide-kneed breeches, ſomething like the Dutch

ſeamen,

ſeamen, and on their legs a ſort of knit buſkins without any feet to them; but never any ſhoes. Their hair is always combed very ſmooth, and tied very tight up in a great bunch cloſe to the neck: ſome wear a very neat hat of their own making, and others go without. The women wear a ſhift like the mens ſhirts, without ſleeves; and over it a ſquare piece of cloth, which they faſten before with a large ſilver pin, and a petticoat of different ſtripes: they take as much care of their hair as the men; and both have always a kind of fillet bound very tight about the forehead, and made faſt behind: in ſhort, theſe people are as cleanly as the ſeveral ſavage nations we had met with before were beaſtly. Upon our firſt coming here, they had diſpatched a meſſenger to the Spaniſh corregidore at Caſtro, a town a conſiderable diſtance from hence, to inform him of our arrival. At the

end

end of three days, this man returned with an order to the chief caciques of theſe Indians we were amongſt, to carry us directly to a certain place, where there would be a party of ſoldiers to receive us. Theſe poor people now ſeemed to be under great concern for us, hearing by the meſſenger the preparations that were making to receive us; for they ſtand in vaſt dread of the Spaniſh ſoldiery. They were very deſirous of knowing what countrymen we were. We told them we were Engliſh, and at that time at war with the Spaniards; upon which they appeared fonder of us than ever; and I verily believe, if they durſt, would have concealed us amongſt them, leſt we ſhould come to any harm. They are ſo far from being in the Spaniſh intereſt, that they deteſt the very name of a Spaniard. And, indeed, I am not ſurpriſed at it; for they are kept under ſuch ſubjection, and ſuch a laborious

ſlavery,

ſlavery, by mere dint of hard uſage and puniſhments, that it appears to me the moſt abſurd thing in the world, that the Spaniards ſhould rely upon theſe people for aſſiſtance upon any emergency. We embarked in the evening, and it was night before we got to the place where we were to be delivered up to the Spaniſh guard. We were met by three or four officers, and a number of ſoldiers, all with their ſpados drawn, who ſurrounded us as if they had the moſt formidable enemy to take charge of, inſtead of three poor helpleſs wretches, who, notwithſtanding the good living we had met with amongſt theſe kind Indians, could hardly ſupport ourſelves. They carried us to the top of a hill, and there put us under a ſhed; for it conſiſted of a thatched roof, without any ſides or walls, being quite open; and here we were to lay upon the cold ground. All ſorts of people now came to ſtare at us as

a fight; but the Indian women never came empty-handed; they always brought with them either fowls, mutton, or ſome kind of proviſion to us; ſo that we lived well enough. However, we found a very ſenſible difference between the treatment we had met with from the Indians, and what we now experienced from the Spaniards: With the former, we were quite at liberty to do as we pleaſed; but here, if we only went ten yards to attempt at getting rid of ſome of the vermin that devoured us, we had two ſoldiers, with drawn ſpados, to attend us. About the third day, a jeſuit from Caſtro came to ſee us; not from a motive of compaſſion, but from a report ſpread by our Indian cacique, that we had ſome things of great value about us. Having by chance ſeen captain Cheap pull out a gold repeating watch, the firſt thing the good father did was to lug out of his pocket a bottle of brandy, and give

us

us a dram, in order to open our hearts. He then came roundly to the point, aſking us if we had ſaved no watches or rings. Captain Cheap declared he had nothing, never ſuſpecting that the Indian had ſeen his watch, having, as he thought, always taken great care to conceal it from him; but knowing that Campbel had a ſilver watch, which had been the property of our ſurgeon, he deſired him to make it a preſent to the jeſuit, telling him, at the ſame time, that as theſe people had great power and authority, it might be of ſervice to us hereafter. This Campbel very unwillingly did, and received from the father, not long after, a pitiful preſent, not a quarter part of the value of the rim of the watch. We underſtood afterwards, that this had come to the governor's ears, who was highly offended at it, as thinking that if any thing of that ſort had been to be had, it was his due; and did not

ſpare the jeſuits in the leaſt upon the occaſion. Soon after this, the officer of the guard informed us there was an order come to carry us to Caſtro. In the evening, we were conducted to the water-ſide, and put into a large periago; and there were ſeveral more, to attend us full of ſoldiers. About eight o'clock at night, we were off the town. The boats all laid upon their oars, and there was a great deal of ceremony uſed in hailing and aſking for the keys, as if it had been a regular fortification. After ſome time, we landed; but could ſee neither gates nor walls, nor any thing that had the appearance of a garriſon. As we walked up a ſteep hill into the town, the way was lined with men who had broomſticks upon their ſhoulders inſtead of muſquets, and a lighted match in their hands. When we came to the corregidore's houſe, we found it full of people. He was an old man, very tall,

with

with a long cloak on, a tye wig without any curl, and a ſpado of immenſe length by his ſide. He received us in great ſtate and form; but as we had no interpreter, we underſtood little or nothing of the queſtions he aſked us. He ordered a table to be ſpread for us with cold ham and fowls; which we three only ſat down to, and in a ſhort time diſpatched more than ten men with common appetites would have done. It is amazing, that our eating to that exceſs we had done, from the time we firſt got amongſt theſe kind Indians, had not killed us; we were never ſatisfied, and uſed to take all opportunities, for ſome months after, of filling our pockets when we were not ſeen, that we might get up two or three times in the night to cram ourſelves. Captain Cheap uſed to declare, that he was quite aſhamed of himſelf. After ſupper, the corregidore carried us to the jeſuits college, attended by the ſoldiers, and all the

rabble of the town. This was intended, at preſent, for our priſon, till orders were received from the governor, who reſided at Chaco, above thirty leagues from this place. When we got to the college, the corregidore deſired the father provincial, as they ſtiled him, or head of the jeſuits here, to find out what religion we were of, or whether we had any or not. He then retired, the gates were ſhut, and we were conducted to a cell. We found in it ſomething like beds ſpread on the floor, and an old ragged ſhirt apiece, but clean, which was of infinite ſervice to us; nor did eating at firſt give me half the ſatisfaction this treaſure of an old ſhirt did. Though this college was large, there were but four jeſuits in it, nor were there any more of that order upon the iſland. In the morning, captain Cheap was ſent for by the father provincial: their converſation was carried on in Latin, perhaps not the beſt

beſt on either ſide; however, they made ſhift to underſtand one another. When he returned, he told us the good fathers were ſtill harping upon what things of value we might have ſaved and concealed about us; and that if we had any thing of that ſort, we could not do better than let them have it. Religion ſeemed to be quite out of the queſtion at preſent; but a day or two after the corregidore being informed that we were heretics, he deſired theſe jeſuits would convert us; but one of them told him it was a mere joke to attempt it, as we could have no inducement upon that iſland to change our religion; but that when we got to Chili, in ſuch a delightful country as that was, where there was nothing but diverſions and amuſements, we ſhould be converted faſt enough. We kept cloſe to our cell till the bell rang for dinner, when we were conducted into a hall, where there was one table for the fathers, and an-

other for us. After a very long Latin prayer, we ſat down and eat what was put before us, without a ſingle word paſſing at either table. As ſoon as we had finiſhed, there was another long prayer, which, however, did not appear ſo tedious as the firſt; and then we retired to our cell again. In this manner we paſſed eight days without ever ſtirring out; all which time one might have imagined one's-ſelf out of the world; for excepting the bell for dinner, a ſilence reigned throughout the whole, as if the place had been uninhabited. A little before dark, on the eighth evening, we heard a violent knocking at the gate; which was no ſooner opened than there entered a young officer booted and ſpurred, who acquainted the fathers that he was ſent by the governor to conduct us to Chaco. This young man was the governor's ſon; by which means he obtained a commiſſion next in authority,

upon

upon this iſland, to his father. He ought to have been kept at ſchool; for he was a vain, empty coxcomb, much diſliked by the people of the iſland. After taking leave of the jeſuits, who I imagine were not ſorry to be rid of us, after finding their expectations baulked, we ſet out, having about thirty ſoldiers on horſeback to attend us. We rode about eight miles that night, when we came to an Eſtancia, or farm-houſe, belonging to an old lady, who had two handſome daughters. Here we were very well entertained; and the good old lady ſeemed to have great compaſſion for us. She aſked the governor's ſon if he thought his father would have any objection to my paſſing a month with her at her farm. As ſhe was a perſon of rank in this iſland, he ſaid he would acquaint his father with her requeſt, and made no doubt but he would grant it. I obſerved our ſoldiers, when they came

into

into the houſe, had none of them any ſhoes on, but wore buſkins, like the Indians, without any feet to them. They all had monſtrous great ſpurs, ſome of ſilver and others of copper, which made a rattling when they walked, like chains. They were all ſtout, ſtrong-looking men, as the Spaniards, natives of the iſland, in general are. After a good ſupper, we had ſheep-ſkins laid near the fire for us to ſleep on. Early in the morning we mounted again; and after riding ſome miles acroſs the country, we came to the water-ſide, where we found ſeveral periagos waiting for us, with ſome officers in them. Moſt of the ſoldiers diſmounted and embarked with us, a few only being ſent round with the horſes. It was three days before we arrived at Chaco, as the tides between this iſland and the main are ſo rapid that no boat can ſtem them. The ſame precaution was taken here as at Caſtro; we

paſſed

paſſed through a whole lane of ſoldiers, armed as I mentioned thoſe to have been before, excepting a few, who really had matchlocks, the only fire-arms they have here. The ſoldiers, upon our journey, had given a pompous account of el Palacio del Rey, or the king's palace, as they ſtiled the governor's houſe, and therefore we expected to ſee ſomething very magnificent; but it was nothing better than a large thatched barn, partitioned off into ſeveral rooms. The governor was ſitting at a large table covered with a piece of red ſerge, having all the principal officers about him. After ſome time, he made us ſit down, attempting to converſe with us by his linguiſt, who was a ſtupid old fellow, that could neither talk Engliſh nor Spaniſh, but ſaid he was born in England, had reſided above forty years in that country, and having formerly been a buccaneer, was taken by the Spaniards

near

near Panama. The governor kept us to ſupper, and then we were conducted acroſs the court to our apartment, which was a place that had ſerved to keep the fire wood for the governor's kitchen; however, as it was dry over head, we thought ourſelves extremely well lodged. There was a ſoldier placed at the door with a drawn ſpado in his hand, to prevent our ſtirring out; which was quite unneceſſary, as we knew not where to go if we had been at liberty. One of theſe ſoldiers took a great fancy to my ragged grieko, which had ſtill ſome thouſands about it; and in exchange gave me an old puncho, the ſort of garment with a hole in the middle to put one's head through, as above related to be worn by the Indians; and for the little bit of my waiſtcoat that remained, he gave me a pair of breeches. I now ſhould have thought myſelf very handſomely equipped, if I had had but another ſhirt.

The next day, about noon, the governor ſent for us, and we dined at his table; after which we returned to our lodging, where we were never alone; for every body was curious to ſee us. We paſſed about a week in this manner, when the centinel was taken off, and we were allowed to look about us a little, though not to go out of the palace, as they were pleaſed to call it. We dined every day with the governor; but were not very fond of his faſt days, which ſucceeded each other too quickly. I contrived to make friends with his ſteward and cook; by which means I always carried my pockets full to my apartment, where I paſſed my time very agreeably. Soon after, we had leave to walk about the town, or go wherever we pleaſed. Every houſe was open to us; and though it was but an hour after we had dined, they always ſpread a table, thinking we never could eat enough after what we had ſuffered;

and

and we were much of the ſame opinion. They are, in general, a charitable, good ſort of people; but very ignorant, and governed by their prieſts, who make them belive juſt what they pleaſe. The Indian language is chiefly ſpoken here, even by the Spaniards one amongſt another; and they ſay they think it a finer language than their own. The women have fine complexions, and many of them are very handſome; they have good voices, and can ſtrum a little upon the guittar; but they have an ugly cuſtom of ſmoking tobacco, which is a very ſcarce commodity here; and therefore is looked upon as a great treat when they meet at one another's houſes. The lady of the houſe comes in with a large wooden pipe crammed with tobacco; and after taking two or three hearty whiffs, ſhe holds her head under her cloak leſt any of the ſmoke ſhould eſcape, and then ſwallows it; ſome time after

you

you ſee it coming out of her noſe and ears. She then hands the pipe to the next lady, who does the ſame, till it has gone through the whole company. Their houſes are but very mean, as will be eaſily imagined by what I have ſaid of the governor's. They make their fire in the middle of their rooms; but have no chimneys; there is a ſmall hole at each end of the roof, to let the ſmoke out. It is only the better ſort of people that eat bread made of wheat, as they grow but very little here, and they have no mills to grind it; but then they have great plenty of the fineſt potatoes in the world: theſe are always roaſted in the aſhes, then ſcraped, and ſerved up at meals inſtead of bread. They breed abundance of ſwine, as they ſupply both Chili and Peru with hams. They are in no want of ſheep, but are not overſtocked with cows; owing, in a great meaſure, to their own indolence in not clearing away

the woods; which if they would be at the pains to do, they might have ſufficient paſture. Their trade conſiſts in hams, hogs-lard, which is uſed throughout all South America inſtead of butter, cedar plank, which the Indians are continually employed in cutting quite to the foot of the Cordilleras, little carved boxes, which the Spaniſh ladies uſe to put their work in, carpets, quilts, and punchos neatly embroidered all round; for theſe, both in Chili and Peru, are uſed by the people of the firſt faſhion, as well as the inferior ſort, by way of riding-dreſs, and are eſteemed to be much more convenient for a horſeman than any kind of coat whatever.

They have what they call an annual ſhip from Lima, as they never expect more than one in the year; though ſometimes it happens that two have come, and at other times they have been two or three years without any. When

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this happens, they are greatly diſtreſſed, as this ſhip brings them baize, cloth, linens, hats, ribbons, tobacco, ſugar, brandy, and wine; but this latter article is chiefly for the uſe of the churches: matte, an herb from Paraguay, uſed all over South America inſtead of tea, is alſo a neceſſary article. This ſhip's cargo is chiefly conſigned to the jeſuits, who have more Indians employed for them than all the reſt of the inhabitants together, and of courſe engroſs almoſt the whole trade. There is no money current in this iſland. If any perſon wants a few yards of linen, a little ſugar, tobacco, or any other thing brought from Peru, he gives ſo many cedar-planks, hams, or punchos, in exchange. Some time after we had been here, a ſnow arrived in the harbour from Lima, which occaſioned great joy amongſt the inhabitants, as they had no ſhip the year before, from the alarm lord Anſon had

given upon the coaſt. This was not the annual veſſel, but one of thoſe that I mentioned before which come unexpectedly. The captain of her was an old man, well known upon the iſland, who had traded here once in two or three years, for more than thirty years paſt. He had a remarkable large head, and therefore was commonly known by a nick-name they had given him of Cabuço de Toro, or Bull's-head. He had not been here a week before he came to the governor, and told him, with a moſt melancholy countenance, that he had not ſlept a wink ſince he came into the harbour, as the governor was pleaſed to allow three Engliſh priſoners liberty to walk about inſtead of confining them; and that he expected every moment they would board his veſſel, and carry her away: this he ſaid when he had above thirty hands aboard. The governor aſſured him he would be anſwerable for

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us, and that he might ſleep in quiet; though at the ſame time he could not help laughing at the man, as all the people in the town did. Theſe aſſurances did not ſatisfy the captain: he uſed the utmoſt diſpatch in diſpoſing of his cargo, and put to ſea again, not thinking himſelf ſafe till he had loſt ſight of the iſland. It was about three months after us that Mr. Hamilton was brought in, by a party that the governor had ſent to the ſouthward on purpoſe to fetch him. He was in a wretched condition upon his firſt arrival, but ſoon recovered with the good living he found here.

It is uſual for the governor to make a tour, every year, through the ſeveral diſtricts belonging to his government: on this occaſion he took us with him. The firſt place he viſited was Carelmapo, on the main; and from thence to Caſtro. At theſe places, he holds a kind of court; all the chief caciques meeting him, and

informing him of what has paſſed ſince his laſt viſit, and receiving freſh orders for the year to come. At Caſtro we had the ſame liberty we enjoyed at Chaco, and viſited every body. It ſeemed they had forgot all the ceremony uſed upon our firſt landing here, which was with an intent to make us believe it was ſtrongly fortified; for now they let us ſee plainly that they had neither fort nor gun. At Chaco they had a little earthen fort, with a ſmall ditch paliſadoed round it, and a few old honey-combed guns without carriages, and which do not defend the harbour in the leaſt. Whilſt we were at Caſtro, the old lady (at whoſe houſe we lay the firſt night upon leaving the jeſuits college) ſent to the governor, and begged I might be allowed to come to her for a few weeks: this was granted; and accordingly I went and paſſed about three weeks with her very happily, as ſhe ſeemed to be as fond of me as if I had

had been her own ſon. She was very unwilling to part with me again; but as the governor was ſoon to return to Chaco, he ſent for me, and I left my benefactreſs with regret.

Amongſt the houſes we viſited at Caſtro, there was one belonging to an old prieſt, who was eſteemed one of the richeſt perſons upon the iſland. He had a niece, of whom he was extremely fond, and who was to inherit all he poſſeſſed. He had taken a great deal of pains with her education, and ſhe was reckoned one of the moſt accompliſhed young ladies of Chiloe. Her perſon was good, though ſhe could not be called a regular beauty. This young lady did me the honour to take more notice of me than I deſerved, and propoſed to her uncle to convert me, and afterwards begged his conſent to marry me. As the old man doated upon her, he readily agreed to it; and accordingly on the next viſit I made him, ac-

quainted me with the young lady's propoſal, and his approbation of it, taking me at the ſame time into a room where there were ſeveral cheſts and boxes, which he unlocked; firſt ſhewing me what a number of fine cloaths his niece had, and then his own wardrobe, which he ſaid ſhould be mine at his death. Amongſt other things, he produced a piece of linen, which he ſaid ſhould immediately be made up into ſhirts for me. I own this laſt article was a great temptation to me; however, I had the reſolution to withſtand it, and made the beſt excuſes I could for not accepting of the honour they intended me; for by this time I could ſpeak Spaniſh well enough to make myſelf underſtood.

Amongſt the Indians who had come to meet the governor here, there were ſome caciques of thoſe Indians who had treated us ſo kindly at our firſt landing upon Chiloe. One of theſe, a young man, had been

been guilty of ſome offence, and was put in irons, and threatened to be more ſeverely puniſhed. We could not learn his crime, or whether the governor did not do it in a great meaſure to ſhew us his power over theſe Indian chiefs: howevér, we were under great concern for this young man, who had been extremely kind to us, and begged captain Cheap to intercede with the governor for him. This he did, and the cacique was releaſed; the governor acquainting him at the ſame time, with great warmth, that it was to us only he owed it, or otherwiſe he would have made a ſevere example of him. The young man ſeemed to have been in no dread of farther puniſhment, as I believe he felt all a man could do from the indignity of being put in irons in the public ſquare, before all his brother-caciques and many hundreds of other Indians. I thought this was not a very politic ſtep of the governor, as the cacique

came after to captain Cheap to thank him for his goodneſs, and in all probability would remember the Engliſh for ſome time after; and not only he, but all the other caciques who had been witneſſes of it, and who ſeemed to feel, if poſſible, even more than the young man himſelf did. We now returned to Chaco, and the governor told us, when the annual ſhip came, which they expected in December, we ſhould be ſent in her to Chili. We felt ſeveral earthquakes while we were here. One day as I happened to be upon a viſit at a houſe where I was very well acquainted, an Indian came in, who lived at many leagues diſtance from this town, and who had made this journey in order to purchaſe ſome little trifles he wanted; amongſt other things, he had bought ſome prints of ſaints. Very proud of theſe, he produced them, and put them into the hands of the women, who very devoutly firſt

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croſſed themſelves with them, and afterwards kiſſed them; then gave them to me, ſaying at the ſame time, they ſuppoſed ſuch a heretic as I was would refuſe to kiſs them. They were right in their conjectures: I returned them to the Indian without going through that ceremony. At that very inſtant, there happened a violent ſhock of an earthquake, which they imputed intirely to the anger of the ſaints; and all quitted the houſe as faſt as they could, leſt it ſhould fall upon their heads. For my part, I made the beſt of my way home for fear of being knocked on the head, when out of the houſe, by the rabble, who looked on me as the cauſe of all this miſchief, and did not return to that houſe again till I thought this affair was forgotten.

Here is a very good harbour; but the entrance is very dangerous for thoſe who are unacquainted with it, as the tides are ſo extremely rapid, and there are

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funken rocks in the mid-channel. The iſland is above ſeventy leagues round; and the body of it lies in about 40 deg. 20 min. ſouth, and is the moſt ſouthern ſettlement the Spaniards have in theſe ſeas. Their ſummer is of no long duration, and moſt of the year round they have hard gales of wind and much rain. Oppoſite the iſland, upon the Cordilleras, there is a volcano, which, at times, burns with great fury, and is ſubject to violent eruptions. One of theſe alarmed the whole iſland, whilſt we were here: it ſounded in the night like great guns. In the morning, the governor mounted his horſe, and rode backwards and forwards from his houſe to the earthen fort, ſaying it was the Engliſh coming in, but that he would give them a warm reception; meaning, I ſuppoſe, that he would have left them a good fire in his houſe; for I am certain he would ſoon have been in the woods, if

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he had ſeen any thing like an Engliſh ſhip coming in.

Women of the firſt faſhion here ſeldom wear ſhoes or ſtockings in the houſe, but only keep them to wear upon particular occaſions. I have often ſeen them coming to the church, which ſtood oppoſite to the governor's houſe, bare-legg'd, walking through mud and water; and at the church door put on their ſhoes and ſtockings, and pull them off again when they came out. Though they are in general handſome, and have good complexions, yet many of them paint in ſo ridiculous a manner, that it is impoſſible to help laughing in their faces when you ſee them.

The governor we found here was a native of Chili. The government, which is appointed by that preſidency, is for three years; which appears to be a long baniſhment to them, as their appointments are but ſmall, though they make

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the moſt of it. The towns of Caſtro and Chaco conſiſt only of ſcattered houſes, without a regular ſtreet; though both have their places, or ſquares, as almoſt all Spaniſh towns have. Chaco is very thinly inhabited, excepting at the time the Lima ſhip arrives; then they flock thither from all parts of the iſland, to purchaſe what little matters they want; and as ſoon as that is done, retire to their eſtancias, or farms. It was about the middle of December this ſhip came in; and the ſecond of January, 1742-3, we embarked on board of her. She was bound to Valparaiſo. We got out to ſea with ſome difficulty, having been driven by the ſtrength of the tide very near thoſe ſunken rocks mentioned before. We found a great ſea without; and as the ſhip was as deep as any laden collier, her decks were continually well waſhed. She was a fine veſſel, of about two hundred and fifty tons. The timber the ſhips of this country are built

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of is excellent, as they laſt a prodigious time; for they aſſured us that the veſſel we were then in had been built above forty years. The captain was a Spaniard, and knew not the leaſt of ſea affairs; the ſecond captain, or maſter, the boatſwain, and his mate, were all three Frenchmen, and very good ſeamen; the pilot was a Mulatto, and all the reſt of the crew were Indians and Negroes. The latter were all ſlaves and ſtout fellows; but never ſuffered to go aloft, leſt they ſhould fall overboard, and the owners loſe ſo much money by it. The Indians were active, briſk men, and very good ſeamen for that climate. We had on board the head of the jeſuits as paſſenger. He and captain Cheap were admitted into the great cabin, and meſſed with the captain and his chaplain. As for us, we were obliged to ruff it the whole paſſage; that is, when we were tired we lay down upon the quarter-deck, in the

open air, and ſlept as well as we could; but that was nothing to us, who had been uſed to fare ſo much worſe. We lived well, eating with the maſter and boatſwain, who always had their meals upon the quarter-deck, and drank brandy at them as we do ſmall beer; and all the reſt of the day were ſmoaking ſegars.

The fifth day we made the land four or five leagues to the ſouthward of Valparaiſo; and ſoon after falling calm, a great weſtern ſwell hurried us in very faſt towards the ſhore. We dropped the lead ſeveral times, but had ſuch deep water we could not anchor. They were all much alarmed when the jeſuit came out of the cabin for the firſt time, having been ſea-ſick the whole paſſage. As ſoon as he was informed of the danger, he went back into the cabin, and brought out the image of ſome ſaint, which he deſired might be hung up in the mizen-ſhrouds; which being done, he kept threat-

ening it, that if we had not a breeze of wind ſoon, he would certainly throw it overboard. Soon after, we had a little wind from off the land, when the jeſuit carried the image back with an air of great triumph, ſaying he was certain that we ſhould not be without wind long, though he had given himſelf over for loſt ſome time before it came. Next morning we anchored in the port of Valparaiſo. In that part which is oppoſite to the fort, ſhips lay ſo near the land, that they have generally three anchors aſhore, as there is eight or ten fathom cloſe to it; and the flaws come off the hills with ſuch violence, that if it was not for this method of ſecuring them, they would be blown out. This is only in ſummer time, for in the winter months no ſhips ever attempt to come in here; the northerly winds then prevail, and drive in ſuch a ſea that they muſt ſoon be aſhore.

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The Spaniſh captain waited upon the governor of the fort, and informed him that he had four Engliſh priſoners on board. We were ordered aſhore in the afternoon, and were received as we got upon the beach, by a file of ſoldiers, with their bayonets fixed, who ſurrounded us, and then marched up to the fort, attended by a numerous mob. We were carried before the governor, whoſe houſe was full of officers. He was blind, aſked a few queſtions, and then ſpoke of nothing but the ſtrength of the garriſon he commanded, and deſired to know if we had obſerved that all the lower battery was braſs guns. We were immediately after, by his order, put into the condemned hole. There was nothing but four bare walls, excepting a heap of lime that filled one third of it, and made the place ſwarm with fleas in ſuch a manner that we were preſently covered with them. Some of admiral Pizarro's ſol-

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diers were here in garriſon that had been landed from his ſhips at Buenos Ayres, as he could not get round Cape Horn. A centinel's box was placed at our door, and we had always a ſoldier with his bayonet fixed, to prevent our ſtirring out. The curioſity of the people was ſuch, that our priſon was continually full from morning till night, by which the ſoldiers made a pretty penny, as they took money from every perſon for the ſight. In a few days, captain Cheap and Mr. Hamilton were ordered up to St. Jago, as they were known to be officers by having ſaved their commiſſions; but Mr. Campbell and I were to continue in priſon. Captain Cheap expreſſed great concern when he left us; he told me it was what he had all along dreaded, that they would ſeparate us when we got into this country; but he aſſured me, if he was permitted to ſpeak to the preſident, that he would never leave ſol-

liciting him till he obtained a grant for me to be ſent up to him. No ſooner were they gone than we fared very badly. A common ſoldier, who was ordered to provide for us by the governor, brought us each, once a day, a few potatoes mixed with hot water. The other ſoldiers of the garriſon, as well as the people who flocked to ſee us, took notice of it, and told the ſoldier it was cruel to treat us in that manner. His anſwer was, "The governor allows me but half a real a day for each of theſe men; what can I do? It is he that is to blame; I am ſhocked every time I bring them this ſcanty pittance, though even that could not be provided for the money he gives them." We from this time lived much better, and the ſoldier brought us even wine and fruit. We took it for granted, that our caſe had been repreſented to the governor, and that he had increaſed our pay. As to the firſt, we were right in

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our conjectures; it had been mentioned to him, that it was impoſſible we could ſubſiſt on what he allowed; and his anſwer to it was, that we might ſtarve; for we ſhould have no more from him, and that he believed he ſhould never be repaid even that. This charitable ſpeech of the governor was made known every where, and now almoſt every one who came to ſee us gave us ſomething; even the mule-drivers would take out their tobacco pouch, in which they kept their money, and give us half a real. All this we would have given to our ſoldier, but he never would receive a farthing from us, telling us we might ſtill want it; and the whole time we were there, which was ſome weeks, he laid aſide half his daily pay to ſupply us, though he had a wife and ſix children, and never could have the leaſt hope or expectation of any recompence. However, two years after this, I had the ſin-

gular pleaſure of making him ſome return, when my circumſtances were much better than his. One night, when we were locked up, there happened a dreadful ſhock of an earthquake. We expected, every moment, the roof and walls of our priſon to fall in upon us, and cruſh us to pieces ; and what added to the horror of it was, the noiſe of chains and imprecations in the next priſon which joined to ours, where there were near ſeventy felons heavily loaded with irons, who are kept here to work upon the fortifications, as in other countries they are condemned to the gallies. A few days after this, we were told an order was come from the preſident to the governor to ſend us up to St. Jago, which is ninety miles from Valparaiſo, and is the capital of Chili. There were, at this time, ſeveral ſhips in the port from Lima delivering their cargoes ; ſo that almoſt every day there were large droves

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of mules going up to St. Jago with the goods. The governor ſent for one of the maſter-carriers, and ordered him to take us up with him. The man aſked him how he was to be paid our expences, as he ſhould be five days upon the road. The governor told him he might get that as he could, for he would not advance him a ſingle farthing. After taking leave of our friendly ſoldier, who even now brought us ſome little matters to carry with us, we ſet out, and travelled about fourteen miles the firſt day, and lay at night in the open field, which is always the cuſtom of theſe people, ſtopping where there is plenty of paſture and good water for the mules. The next morning we paſſed over a high mountain, called Zapata; and then croſſing a large plain, we paſſed another mountain, very difficult for the mules, who each carried two heavy bales: there were above a hundred of them in this drove.

The mules of Chili are the fineſt in the world; and though they are continually upon the road, and have nothing but what they pick up at nights, they are as fat and ſleek as high-fed horſes in England. The fourth night, we lay upon a plain in ſight of St. Jago, and not above four leagues from it. The next day, as we moved towards the city, our maſter-carrier, who was naturally well diſpoſed, and had been very kind to us all the way upon the road, adviſed me, very ſeriouſly, not to think of remaining in St. Jago, where he ſaid there was nothing but extravagance, vice, and folly, but to proceed on with them as mule-driver, which, he ſaid, I ſhould ſoon be very expert at; and that they led an innocent and happy life, far preferable to any enjoyment ſuch a great city as that before us could afford. I thanked him, and told him I was very much obliged to him; but that I would try the city firſt,

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and if I did not like it, I would accept of the offer he was ſo good to make me. The thing that gave him this high opinion of me was, that as he had been ſo civil to us, I was very officious in aſſiſting to drive in thoſe mules that ſtrayed from the reſt upon thoſe large plains we paſſed over; and this I thought was the leaſt I could do towards making ſome returns for the obligations we were under to him.

When we got into St. Jago, the carrier delivered us to the captain of the guard, at the palace gate; and he ſoon after introduced us to the preſident, Don Joſeph Manſo, who received us very civilly, and then ſent us to the houſe where captain Cheap and Mr. Hamilton were. We found them extremely well lodged at the houſe of a Scotch phyſician, whoſe name was don Patricio Gedd. This gentleman had been a long time in this city, and was greatly eſteemed by the Spaniards, as

well for his abilities in his profeſſion, as his humane diſpoſition. He no ſooner heard that there were four Engliſh priſoners arrived in that country, than he waited upon the preſident, and begged they might be lodged at his houſe. This was granted; and had we been his own brothers, we could not have met with a more friendly reception; and during two years that we were with him, his conſtant ſtudy was to make every thing as agreeable to us as poſſible. We were greatly diſtreſſed to think of the expence he was at upon our account; but it was in vain for us to argue with him about it. In ſhort, to ſum up his character in a few words, there never was a man of more extenſive humanity. Two or three days after our arrival, the preſident ſent Mr. Campbell and me an invitation to dine with him, where we were to meet admiral Pizarro and all his officers. This was a cruel ſtroke upon us, as we had not

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any cloaths fit to appear in, and dared not refuſe the invitation. The next day, a Spaniſh officer belonging to admiral Pizarro's ſquadron, whoſe name was don Manuel de Guiror, came and made us an offer of two thouſand dollars. This generous Spaniard made this offer without any view of ever being repaid, but purely out of a compaſſionate motive of relieving us in our preſent diſtreſs. We returned him all the acknowledgments his uncommon generous behaviour merited, and accepted of ſix hundred dollars only, upon his receiving our draught for that ſum upon the Engliſh conſul at Liſbon. We now got ourſelves decently cloathed after the Spaniſh faſhion; and as we were upon our parole, we went out where we pleaſed to divert ourſelves.

This city is ſituated in about 33 degrees and 30 minutes, ſouth latitude, at the weſt foot of the immenſe chain of mountains called the Cordilleras. It ſtands

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on a moſt beautiful plain of above thirty leagues extent. It was founded by don Pedro de Baldivia, the conqueror of Chili. The plan of it was marked out by him in ſquares, like Lima; and almoſt every houſe belonging to people of any faſhion, has a large court before it, with great gates, and a garden behind. There is a little rivulet, neatly faced with ſtone, runs through every ſtreet; by which they can cool the ſtreets, or water their gardens, when they pleaſe. The whole town is extremely well paved. Their gardens are full of noble orange-trees and floripondies, with all ſorts of flowers, which perfume the houſes, and even the whole city. Much about the middle of it, is the great ſquare, called the Plaça Real, or the Royal Square; there are eight avenues leading into it. The weſt ſide contains the cathedral and the biſhop's palace; the north ſide is the preſident's palace, the royal court, the council houſe,

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and the priſon; the ſouth ſide is a row of piazzas, the whole length of which are ſhops, and over it a gallery to ſee the bull-feaſts; the eaſt ſide has ſome large houſes belonging to people of diſtinction; and in the middle is a large fountain, with a braſs baſon. The houſes have, in general, only a ground floor, upon account of the frequent earthquakes; but they make a handſome appearance. The churches are rich in gilding, as well as in plate: that of the jeſuits is reckoned an exceeding good piece of architecture; but it is much too high built for a country ſo ſubject to earthquakes, and where it has frequently happened that thouſands of people have been ſwallowed up at once. There is a hill, or rather high rock, at the eaſt end of the city, called St. Lucia, from the top of which you have a view of all the city, and the country about for many leagues, affording a very delightful landſcape. Their

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eſtancias, or country houſes, are very pleaſant, having generally a fine grove of olive trees, with large vineyards to them. The Chili wine, in my opinion, is full as good as Madeira, and made in ſuch quantities that it is ſold extremely cheap. The ſoil of this country is ſo fertile, that the huſbandmen have very little trouble; for they do but in a manner ſcratch up the ground, and without any kind of manure it yields an hundred fold. Without doubt the wheat of Chili is the fineſt in the world, and the fruits are all excellent in their kinds. Beef and mutton are ſo cheap, that you may have a good cow for three dollars, and a fat ſheep for two ſhillings. Their horſes are extraordinary good; and though ſome of them go at a great price, you may have a very good one for four dollars, or about eighteen ſhillings of our money. It muſt be a very poor Indian who has not his four or five horſes; and there are

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no better horſemen in the world than the Chileans; and that is not ſurprizing, for they never chuſe to go a hundred yards on foot. They have always their laço fixed to their ſaddle: the laço is a long thong of leather, at the end of which they make a ſliding nooſe. It is of more general uſe to them than any weapon whatever; for with this they are ſure of catching either horſe or wild bull, upon full gallop, by any foot they pleaſe. Their horſes are all trained to this, and the moment they find the thong ſtraitened, as the other end is always made faſt to the ſaddle, the horſe immediately turns ſhort, and throwing the beaſt thus caught, the huntſman wounds or ſecures him in what manner he thinks proper. Theſe people are ſo dexterous, that they will take from the ground a glove or handkerchief, while their horſe is upon full ſtretch; and I have ſeen them jump upon the back of

the wildeſt bull, and all the efforts of the beaſt could not throw them. This country produces all ſorts of metals; it is famous for gold, ſilver, iron, tin, lead, and quickſilver; but ſome of theſe they do not underſtand working, eſpecially quickſilver. With copper they ſupply all Peru, and ſend, likewiſe, a great deal to Europe. The climate of Chili is, I believe, the fineſt in the world. What they call their winter does not laſt three months; and even that is very moderate, as may be imagined by their manner of building, for they have no chimneys in their houſes. All the reſt of the year is delightful; for though from ten or eleven in the morning till five in the afternoon, it is very hot, yet the evenings and mornings are very cool and pleaſant; and in the hotteſt time of the year, it is from ſix in the evening till two or three in the morning, that the people of this country meet to di-

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vert themſelves with muſic and other entertainments, at which there is plenty of cooling liquors, as they are well ſupplied with ice from the neighbouring Cordilleras. At theſe aſſemblies, many intrigues are carried on; for they think of nothing elſe throughout the year. Their fandangoes are very agreeable; the women dance inimitably well, and very gracefully. They are all born with an ear for muſic, and moſt of them have delightful voices; and all play upon the guittar and harp. The latter, at firſt, appears a very aukward inſtrument for a woman; yet that prejudice is ſoon got over, and they far excel any other nation upon it. They are extremely complaiſant and polite; and when aſked either to play, dance, or ſing, they do it without a moment's heſitation, and that with an exceeding good grace. They have many figure-dances; but what they take moſt delight in, are

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more like our hornpipes than any thing elſe I can compare them to; and upon theſe occaſions they ſhew ſurprizing activity. The women are remarkably handſome, and very extravagant in their dreſs. Their hair, which is as thick as is poſſible to be conceived, they wear of a vaſt length, without any other ornament upon the head than a few flowers; they plait it behind in four plaits, and twiſt them round a bodkin, at each end of which is a diamond roſe. Their ſhifts are all over lace, as is a little tight waiſtcoat they wear over them. Their petticoats are open before, and lap over, and have commonly three rows of very rich lace of gold or ſilver. In winter, they have an upper waiſtcoat of cloth of gold or ſilver, and in ſummer, of the fineſt linen, covered all over with the fineſt Flanders lace. The ſleeves of theſe are immenſely wide. Over all this, when the air is cool, they have a mantle,

which is only of bays, of the fineſt colours, round which there is abundance of lace. When they go abroad, they wear a veil, which is ſo contrived that one eye is only ſeen. Their feet are very ſmall, and they value themſelves as much upon it as the Chineſe do. Their ſhoes are pinked and cut; their ſtockings ſilk, with gold and ſilver clocks; and they love to have the end of an embroidered garter hang a little below the petticoat. Their breaſts and ſhoulders are very naked; and, indeed, you may eaſily diſcern their whole ſhape by their manner of dreſs. They have fine ſparkling eyes, ready wit, a great deal of good-nature, and a ſtrong diſpoſition to gallantry.

By the deſcription of one houſe you have an idea of all the reſt. You firſt come into a large court, on one ſide of which is the ſtable: you then enter a hall; on one ſide of that is a large room,

about twenty feet wide, and near forty feet long: that ſide next the window is the eſtrado, which runs the whole length of the room. The eſtrado is a platform, raiſed about five or ſix inches above the floor, and is covered with carpets and velvet cuſhions for the women to ſit on, which they do, after the Mooriſh faſhion, croſs-legged. The chairs for the men are covered with printed leather. At the end of the eſtrado, there is an alcove, where the bed ſtands; and there is always a vaſt deal of the ſheets hanging out, with a profuſion of lace to them, and the ſame on the pillows. They have a falſe door to the alcove, which ſometimes is very convenient. Beſides, there are generally two other rooms, one within another; and the kitchen and other offices are detached from the houſe, either at one ſide or the end of the garden.

The ladies are fond of having their Mulatto female ſlaves dreſſed almoſt as well as themſelves in every reſpect, excepting jewels, in which they indulge themſelves to the utmoſt extravagance. Paraguay tea, which they call matte, as I mentioned before, is always drunk twice a day: this is brought upon a large ſilver ſalver, with four legs raiſed upon it, to receive a little cup made out of a ſmall calabaſh, or gourd, and tipped with ſilver. They put the herb firſt into this, and add what ſugar they pleaſe, and a little orange juice; and then pour hot water on them, and drink it immediately, through the conveyance of a long ſilver tube, at the end of which there is a round ſtrainer, to prevent the herb getting through. And here it is reckoned a piece of politeneſs for the lady to ſuck the tube two or three times firſt, and then give it the ſtranger to drink without wiping it.

They eat every thing ſo highly ſeaſoned with red pepper, that thoſe who are not uſed to it, upon the firſt mouthful would imagine their throats on fire for an hour afterwards; and it is a common cuſtom here, though you have the greateſt plenty at your own table, to have two or three Mulatto girls come in at the time you dine, bringing, in a little ſilver plate, ſome of theſe high-ſeaſoned ragouts, with a compliment from Donna ſuch-a-one, who deſires you will eat a little bit of what ſhe has ſent you; which muſt be done before her Mulatto's face, or it would be deemed a great affront. Had this been the faſhion at Chiloe, we ſhould never have offended; but ſometimes here we could have wiſhed this ceremony omitted.

The preſident never aſked any of us a ſecond time to his table. He expected us once a fortnight to be at his levee, which we never failed; and he always received

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us very politely. He was a man of a very amiable character, and much reſpected by every body in Chili, and ſome time after we left that country, was appointed viceroy of Peru.

We had leave, whenever we aſked it, to make an excurſion into the country for ten or twelve days at a time; which we did ſometimes to a very pleaſant ſpot belonging to don Joſeph Dunoſe, a French gentleman, and a very ſenſible, well-bred man, who had married a very agreeable lady at St. Jago, with a very good fortune. We alſo ſometimes had invitations from the Spaniards to their country-houſes. We had a numerous acquaintance in the city, and in general received many civilities from the inhabitants. There are a great many people of faſhion, and very good families from Old Spain ſettled here. A lady lived next door to us, whoſe name was donna Franciſca Giron; and as my name ſounded

ſomething like it, ſhe would have it that we were Parientes. She had a daughter, a very fine young woman, who both played and ſung remarkably well: ſhe was reckoned the fineſt voice in St. Jago. They ſaw a great deal of company, and we were welcome to her houſe whenever we pleaſed. We were a long time in this country, but we paſſed it very agreeably. The preſident alone goes with four horſes to his coach; but the common vehicle here is a calaſh, or kind of vis-à-vis, drawn by one mule only. Bull-feaſts are a common diverſion here, and they far ſurpaſs any thing of that kind I ever ſaw at Liſbon, or any where elſe. Indeed, it is amazing to ſee the activity and dexterity of thoſe who attack the bulls. It is always done here by thoſe only who follow it as a trade, for it is too dangerous to be practiſed as a diverſion; as a proof of which, it is found, that though ſome may hold out

longer than others, there are few who conſtantly practiſe it, that die a natural death. The bulls are always the wildeſt that can be brought in from the mountains or foreſts, and have nothing on their horns to prevent their piercing a man the firſt ſtroke, as they have at Liſbon. I have ſeen a man, when the bull came at him with the utmoſt fury, ſpring directly over the beaſt's head, and perform this feat ſeveral times, and at laſt jump on his back, and there ſit a conſiderable time, the bull the whole time attempting every means to throw him. But though this practitioner was ſucceſsful, ſeveral accidents happened while I was there. The ladies, at theſe feaſts, are always dreſſed as fine as poſſible; and, I imagine, go rather to be admired than to receive any amuſement from a ſight that one ſhould think would give them pain. Another amuſement for the ladies here, are the nights of their

great proceſſions, when they go out veiled; and as in that dreſs they cannot be known, they amuſe themſelves in talking to people much in the manner that is done at our maſquerades. One night in Lent, as I was ſtanding cloſe to the houſes as the proceſſion went by, and having nothing but a thin waiſtcoat on under my cloak, and happening to have my arm out, a lady came by, and gave me a pinch with ſo good a will, that I thought ſhe had taken the piece out; and, indeed, I carried the marks for a long time after. I durſt not take the leaſt notice of this at the time; for had I made any diſturbance, I ſhould have been knocked on the head. This kind lady immediately after mixed with the crowd, and I never could find out who had done me that favour. I have ſeen fifty or ſixty penitents following theſe proceſſions; they wear a long white garment with a long train

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to it, and high caps of the ſame, which fall down before, and cover all their faces, having only two ſmall holes for their eyes; ſo that they are never known. Their backs are bare, and they laſh themſelves with a cat-o'-nine-tails till the long train behind is covered all over with blood. Others follow them with great heavy croſſes upon their backs; ſo that they groan under the weight as they walk barefooted, and often faint away. The ſtreets ſwarm with friars of all the different orders. The preſident has always a guard at his palace regularly cloathed. The reſt of their forces conſiſts of militia, who are numerous.

All European goods are very dear. Engliſh cloth of fourteen or fifteen ſhillings a yard, ſells there for ten or eleven dollars; and every other article in proportion. We found many Spaniards here that had been taken by commodore Anſon, and had been for ſome time priſoners

ſoners on board the Centurion. They all ſpoke in the higheſt terms of the kind treatment they had received; and it is natural to imagine, that it was chiefly owing to that laudable example of humanity our reception here was ſo good. They had never had any thing but privateers and buccaneers amongſt them before, who handled their priſoners very roughly; ſo that the Spaniards in general, both of Peru and Chili, had the greateſt dread of being taken by the Engliſh; but ſome of them told us, that they were ſo happy on board the Centurion, that they ſhould not have been ſorry if the commodore had taken them with him to England.

After we had been here ſome time, Mr. Campbell changed his religion, and of courſe left us. At the end of two years, the preſident ſent for us, and informed us a French ſhip from Lima, bound to Spain, had put into Valparaiſo,

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and that we ſhould embark in her. After taking leave of our good friend Mr. Gedd, and all our acquaintance at St. Jago, we ſet out for Valparaiſo, mules and a guide being provided for us. I had forgot to ſay before, that captain Cheap had been allowed by the preſident ſix reals a day, and we had four for our maintenance the whole time we were at St. Jago, which money we took up as we wanted it. Our journey back was much pleaſanter than we found it when we were firſt brought hither, as we had now no mules to drive. The firſt perſon I met, upon our entrance into Valparaiſo, was the poor ſoldier whom I mentioned to have been ſo kind to us when we were impriſoned in the fort. I now made him a little preſent, which, as it came quite unexpected, made him very happy. We took lodgings till the ſhip was ready to ſail, and diverted ourſelves as we pleaſed, having

the good fortune, at this time, to have nothing to do with the governor or his fort. The town is but a poor little place; there are, indeed, a good many ſtorehouſes built by the water-ſide for the reception of goods from the ſhipping.

About the 20th of December, 1744, we embarked on board the Lys frigate, belonging to St. Malo. She was a ſhip of four hundred and twenty tons, ſixteen guns, and ſixty men. She had ſeveral paſſengers on board; and amongſt the reſt, don George Juan, a man of very ſuperior abilities (and ſince that time well known in England) who with don Antonio Ulloa had been ſeveral years in Peru, upon a deſign of meaſuring ſome degrees of the meridian near the equator. We were now bound to Conception, in order to join three other French ſhips that were likewiſe bound home. As this was a time of the year when the

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ſoutherly winds prevail upon this coaſt, we ſtood off a long way to the weſtward, making the iſland of Juan Fernandez. We did not get into the bay of Conception till the 6th of January 1745, where we anchored at Talcaguana, and there found the Louis Eraſme, the Marquis d'Antin, and the Delivrance, the three French ſhips that we were to accompany. It is but ſixty leagues from Valparaiſo to Conception, though we had been ſo long making this paſſage; but there is no beating up, near the ſhore, againſt the ſoutherly wind, which is the trade, at this ſeaſon, as you are ſure to have a lee-current; ſo that the quickeſt way of making a paſſage is to ſtand off a hundred and twenty or thirty leagues from the land.

The bay of Conception is a large, fine bay; but there are ſeveral ſhoals in it, and only two good anchoring-places, though a ſhip may anchor within a quarter of a

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league of the town ; but this only in the very fine months, as you lay much expoſed. The beſt anchoring-place is Talcaguana, the ſouthernmoſt neck of the bay, in five or ſix fathom water, good holding ground, and where you are ſheltered from the northerly winds. The town has no other defence but a low battery, which only commands the anchoring-place before it. The country is extremely pleaſant, and affords the greateſt plenty of proviſions of all kinds. In ſome excurſions we made daily from Talcaguana, we ſaw great numbers of very large ſnakes ; but we were told they were quite harmleſs. I have read ſome former accounts of Chili, by the jeſuits, wherein they tell you that no venomous creature is to be found in it, and that they even made the experiment of bringing bugs here, which died immediately ; but I never was in any place that ſwarmed with them ſo much as St. Jago ; and they

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have a large ſpider there, whoſe bite is ſo venomous, that I have ſeen from it ſome of the moſt ſhocking ſights I ever ſaw in my life; and it certainly proves mortal, if proper remedies are not applied in time. I was once bit by one on the cheek, whilſt aſleep, and preſently after, all that part of my face turned as black as ink. I was cured by the application of a bluiſh kind of ſtone (the ſame, perhaps, they call the ſerpent-ſtone in the Eaſt-Indies, and which is a compoſition). The ſtone ſtuck, for ſome time, of itſelf on my face, and dropping off, was put into milk till it had digeſted the poiſon it had extracted and then applied again till the pain abated, and I was ſoon afterwards well, Whilſt the ſhips remained at Conception, the people were employed in killing of cattle and falting them for the voyage; and every ſhip took on board as many bullocks and ſheep as their decks could well hold; and having com-

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pleated their buſineſs here, they ſailed the 27th of January; but about eight days after our ſhip ſprung a very dangerous leak forward; but ſo low, that there was no poſſibility of ſtopping it without returning into port, and lightening her till they could come at it. Accordingly we ſeparated from the other ſhips, and made the beſt of our way for Valparaiſo, keeping all hands at the pump night and day, paſſengers and all. However, as it happened, this proved a lucky circumſtance for the Lys, as the three other ſhips were taken; and which certainly would have been her fate likewiſe, had ſhe kept company with the reſt. As ſoon as we got into port, they lightened the ſhip forwards, and brought her by the ſtern till they came at the leak, which was ſoon ſtopped. They made all the diſpatch poſſible in compleating the water again. Whilſt at Valparaiſo, we had one of the moſt violent ſhocks of an

quake that we had ever felt yet. On the firſt of March we put to ſea again, the ſeaſon being already far advanced for paſſing Cape Horn. The next day we went to an allowance of a quart of water a day for each man, which continued the whole paſſage. We were obliged to ſtand a long way to the weſtward; and went to the northward of Juan Fernandes above a degree, before we had a wind that we could make any ſouthing with. On the 25th, in the latitude of 46 degrees, we met with a violent hard gale at weſt, which obliged us to lie to under a reefed mainſail for ſome days; and before we got round the Cape, we had many very hard gales, with a prodigious ſea and conſtant thick ſnow; and after being ſo long in ſo delightful a climate as Chili, the cold was almoſt inſupportable. After doubling the Cape, we got but ſlowly to the north-

ward ; and, indeed, at the beſt of times, the ſhip never went above ſix knots ; for ſhe was a heavy-going thing. On the 27th of May we croſſed the line ; when finding that our water was grown extremely ſhort, and that it would be almoſt impoſſible to reach Europe without a ſupply, it was reſolved to bear away for Martinico. On the 29th of June, in the morning, we made the iſland of Tobago, and then ſhaped a courſe for Martinico ; and on the firſt of July, by our reckonings, expected to ſee it, but were diſappointed. This was imputed to the currents, which, whether they had ſet the ſhip to the eaſtward or weſtward, nobody could tell ; but upon looking over the charts, it was imagined, if the current had driven her to the weſtward, it muſt have been among the Granadillos, which was thought impoſſible without ſeeing any of them, as they are

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ſo near together, and a moſt dangerous place for rocks. It was then concluded we were to the eaſtward, and accordingly we ſteered S. W. by W. but having run this courſe for above thirty leagues, and no land appearing, it was reſolved to ſtand to the northward till we ſhould gain the latitude of Porto Rico, and on the 4th in the evening we made that iſland; ſo that it was now certain the ſhip had been huſtled through the Granadillos in the night, which was, without doubt, as extraordinary a paſſage as ever ſhip made. It was now reſolved to go between the iſlands of Porto Rico and St. Domingo for Cape Francois, therefore we lay to that night. In the morning, we made ſail along ſhore; and about ten o'clock, as I was walking the quarter-deck, captain Cheap came out of the cabin, and told me he had juſt ſeen a beef-barrel go by the ſhip; that he

was ſure it had but lately been thrown overboard, and that he would venture any wager we ſaw an Engliſh cruizer before long. In about half an hour after, we ſaw two ſail to leeward, from off the quarter-deck; for they kept no look out from the maſt-head, and we preſently obſerved they were in chace of us. The French and Spaniards on board, now began to grow a good deal alarmed, when it fell ſtark calm; but not before the ſhips had neared us ſo much, that we plainly diſcerned them to be Engliſh men of war; the one a two-decker, the other a twenty-gun ſhip. The French had now thoughts, when a breeze ſhould ſpring up, of running the ſhip on ſhore upon Porto Rico; but when they came to conſider what a ſet of banditti inhabited that iſland, and that in all probability they would have their throats cut for the ſake of plunder-

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ing the wreck, they were reſolved to take their chance, and ſtand to the northward between the two iſlands. In the even-ing, a freſh breeze ſprung up, and we ſhaped a courſe accordingly. The two ſhips had it preſently afterwards, and neared us amazingly faſt. Now every body on board gave themſelves up; the officers were buſy in their cabins, filling their pockets with what was moſt valu-able; the men put on their beſt cloaths, and many of them came to me with little lumps of gold, deſiring I would take them, as they ſaid they had much rather I ſhould benefit by them, whom they were acquainted with, than thoſe that chaced them. I told them there was time enough, though I thought they were as ſurely taken as if the Engliſh had been already on board. A fine moonlight night came on, and we expected every moment to ſee the ſhips

along-ſide of us; but we ſaw nothing of them in the night, and to our great aſtoniſhment, in the morning no ſhips were to be ſeen even from the maſt-head. Thus did theſe two cruizers loſe one of the richeſt prizes, by not chacing an hour or two longer. There were near two millions of dollars on board, beſides a valuable cargo. On the eighth, at ſix in the morning, we were off Cape La Grange; and, what is very remarkable, the French at Cape Francois told us afterwards that was the only day they ever remembered ſince the war, that the Cape had been without one or two Engliſh privateers cruiſing off it; and but the evening before, two of them had taken two outward bound St. Domingo men, and had gone with them for Jamaica; ſo that this ſhip might be juſtly eſteemed a moſt lucky one. In the afternoon we came to an anchor in Cape Francois harbour.

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In this long run we had not buried a ſingle man; nor do I remember that there was one ſick the whole paſſage; but at this place many were taken ill, and three or four died; for there is no part of the Weſt-Indies more unhealthy than this; yet the country is beautiful, and extremely well cultivated. After being here ſome time, the gover-nor ordered us to wait upon him, which we did; when he took no more notice of us than if we had been his ſlaves, never aſking us even to ſit down.

Towards the end of Auguſt a French ſquadron of five men of war came in, commanded by monſieur L'Etanducre, who were to convoy the trade to France. Neither he nor his officers ever took any kind of notice of captain Cheap, though we met them every day aſhore. One evening, as we were going aboard

with the captain of our ſhip, a midſhipman belonging to monſieur L'Etanducre, jumped into our boat, and ordered the people to carry him on board the ſhip he belonged to, leaving us to wait upon the beach for two hours before the boat returned. On the ſixth of September, we put to ſea, in company with the five men of war, and about fifty ſail of merchantmen. On the eighth we made the Cayco Grande; and the next day a Jamaica privateer, a large fine ſloop, hove in ſight, keeping a little to windward of the convoy, reſolving to pick up one or two of them in the night, if poſſible. This obliged monſieur L'Etanducre to ſend a frigate to ſpeak to all the convoy, and order them to keep cloſe to him in the night; which they did, and in ſuch a manner, that ſometimes ſeven or eight of them were on board one another together; by which they received much damage;

damage; and to repair which, the whole ſquadron was obliged to lay to ſometimes for a whole day. The privateer kept her ſtation, jogging on with the fleet. At laſt, the commodore ordered two of his beſt-going ſhips to chace her. She appeared to take no notice of them till they were pretty near her, and then would make ſail and be out of ſight preſently. The chacing ſhips no ſooner returned, than the privateer was in company again. As by this every night ſome accident happened to ſome of the convoy by keeping ſo cloſe together, a fine ſhip of thirty guns, belonging to Marſeilles, hauled out a little to windward of the reſt of the fleet; which L'Etanducre perceiving in the morning, ordered the frigate to bring the captain of her on board of him; and then making a ſignal for all the convoy to cloſe to him, he fired a gun, and hoiſted

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a red flag at the enſign ſtaff; and immediately after the captain of the merchantman was run up to the main-yard-arm, and from thence ducked three times. He was then ſent on board his ſhip again, with orders to keep his colours flying the whole day, in order to diſtinguiſh him from the reſt. We were then told, that the perſon who was treated in this cruel manner, was a young man of an exceeding good family in the ſouth of France, and likewiſe a man of great ſpirit; and that he would not fail to call monſieur L'Etanducre to an account when an opportunity ſhould offer; and the affair made much noiſe in France afterwards. One day, the ſhip we were in happened to be out of her ſtation, by ſailing ſo heavily, when the commodore made the ſignal to ſpeak to our captain, who ſeemed frightened out of his wits. When we came near him, he began with

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the groſſeſt abuſe, threatening our captain, that if ever he was out of his ſtation again, he would ſerve him as he had done the other. This rigid diſcipline, however, preſerved the convoy; for though the privateer kept company a long time, ſhe was not ſo fortunate as to meet with the reward of her perſeverance.

On the 27th of October, in the evening, we made Cape Ortegal; and on the 31ſt, came to an anchor in Breſt road. The Lys having ſo valuable a cargo on board, was towed into the harbour the next morning, and laſhed alongſide one of their men of war. The money was ſoon landed; and the officers and men, who had been ſo many years abſent from their native country, were glad to get on ſhore. Nobody remained on board but a man or two to look after the ſhip, and we three Engliſh priſoners, who had

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no leave to go aſhore. The weather was extremely cold, and felt particularly ſo to us, who had been ſo long uſed to hot climates; and what made it ſtill worſe, we were very thinly clad. We had neither fire nor candle; for they were allowed on board of no ſhip in the harbour, for fear of accidents, being cloſe to their magazines in the dock-yard. Some of the officers belonging to the ſhip were ſo kind to ſend us off victuals every day, or we might have ſtarved; for monſieur L'Intendant never ſent us even a meſſage; and though there was a very large ſquadron of men of war fitting out at that time, not one officer belonging to them ever came near captain Cheap. From five in the evening we were obliged to ſit in the dark; and if we choſe to have any ſupper, it was neceſſary to place it very near us before that time, or we never could have found it. We

had paſſed ſeven or eight days in this melancholy manner, when one morning a kind of row-galley came along-ſide with a number of Engliſh priſoners belonging to two large privateers the French had taken. We were ordered into the ſame boat with them, and were carried four leagues up the river to Landernaw. At this town we were upon our parole; ſo took the beſt lodgings we could get, and lived very well for three months, when an order came from the court of Spain to allow us to return home by the firſt ſhip that offered. Upon this, hearing there was a Dutch ſhip at Morlaix ready to ſail, we took horſes and travelled to that town, where we were obliged to remain ſix weeks, before we had an opportunity of getting away. At laſt we agreed with the maſter of a Dutch dogger to land us at Dover, and paid him before-hand. When

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we had got down the river into the road, a French privateer that was almoſt ready to ſail upon a cruize, hailed the Dutchman, and told him to come to an anchor; and that if he offered to ſail before him, he would ſink him. This he was forced to comply with, and lay three days in the road, curſing the Frenchman, who at the end of that time put to ſea, and then we were at liberty to do the ſame. We had a long uncomfortable paſſage. About the ninth day, before ſun-ſet, we ſaw Dover, and reminded the Dutchman of his agreement to land us there. He ſaid he would; but inſtead of that, in the morning we were off the coaſt of France. We complained loudly of this piece of villany, and inſiſted upon his returning to land us, when an Engliſh man of war appeared to windward, and preſently bore down to us. She ſent her boat on board

board with an officer, who informed us the ſhip he came from was the Squirrel, commanded by captain Maſterſon. We went on board of her, and captain Maſterſon immediately ſent one of the cutters he had with him, to land us at Dover, where we arrived that afternoon, and directly ſet out for Canterbury upon poſt-horſes; but captain Cheap was ſo tired by the time he got there, that he could proceed no further that night. The next morning he ſtill found himſelf ſo much fatigued, that he could ride no longer; therefore it was agreed that he and Mr. Hamilton ſhould take a poſt-chaiſe, and that I ſhould ride; but here an unlucky difficulty was ſtarted; for upon ſharing the little money we had, it was found to be not ſufficient to pay the charges to London; and my proportion fell ſo ſhort, that it was, by calculation, barely enough to pay for horſes, without

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out a farthing for eating a bit upon the road, or even for the very turnpikes. Thoſe I was obliged to defraud, by riding as hard as I could through them all, not paying the leaſt regard to the men, who called out to ſtop me. The want of refreſhment I bore as well as I could. When I got to the Borough, I took a coach and drove to Marlborough-ſtreet, where my friends had lived when I left England; but when I came there, I found the houſe ſhut up. Having been abſent ſo many years, and in all that time never having heard a word from home, I knew not who was dead, or who was living, or where to go next; or even how to pay the coachman. I recollected a linen-draper's ſhop, not far from thence, which our family had uſed. I therefore drove there next, and making myſelf known, they paid the coachman. I then enquired after our family, and

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was told my ſiſter had married lord Carliſle, and was at that time in Soho-ſquare. I immediately walked to the houſe, and knocked at the door; but the porter not liking my figure, which was half French, half Spaniſh, with the addition of a large pair of boots covered with dirt, he was going to ſhut the door in my face; but I prevailed with him to let me come in.

I need not acquaint my readers with what ſurpriſe and joy my ſiſter received me. She immediately furniſhed me with money ſufficient to appear like the reſt of my countrymen; till that time I could not be properly ſaid to have finiſhed all the extraordinary ſcenes which a ſeries of unfortunate adventures had kept me in for the ſpace of five years and upwards.

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